

2019
V3

THE FLOT LINE hosted by Rick Hughes
TRANSCRIPTS 2019 Volume 3 September–December





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 set state records in the shot put and discus. The University of Florida signed Rick to a full football scholarship, but his SAT scores were too low. Challenged by a coach to overcome this failure, Rick applied himself in the classroom as he had done on the field. He seized the challenge, got a second chance, entered the University of Alabama as

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

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

BOOKS by RICK HUGHES

The FLOT Line Transcripts
God's Problem-Solving Devices Bookmark
Bible Promises & Principles
Life's Toughest Years
A Divine Pardon
Understanding Your Soul
Practicing Your 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 3 (September-December)

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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America, The Land of the Foolish - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 731 aired on August 25, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. FLOT (Forward Line of Troops) is all about learning the unique problem-solving devices taught in the Bible so you can establish a main line of resistance in your soul. By using those unique problem-solving devices, it's possible you can stop the outside source of adversity before it ever becomes the inside source of stress. Building a FLOT line is a wonderful way to live. It relieves all the pressure in your life - no worry, no fear, no bitterness, no animosity. Actually it's accumulating the mind of Christ - thinking like our Lord Jesus Christ thought. He had a FLOT line in His soul, although He never needed to confess any sin like we do. This is problem-solving device #1, rebound. *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing"* (1 John 1:9). Building a FLOT line is what this show is about. God gave you two ends. One end to sit with and one end to think with. Success in your life depends on which one you use. Heads you win, tails you lose. Remember bad decisions limit future options and if you make enough bad decisions you are not going to have any options left. The worst decision anyone could make in their entire life is to reject Jesus Christ as Savior. You leave God no choice when you do that because you rejected the love of God. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* (John 3:16). When you reject the gift God gives you, His Son, you leave the justice of God no choice but to judge you and that will occur at the Great White Throne of judgment - you don't want to be there. The Bible says, *"He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life, and he that believes not, the wrath of God abides on him already"* (John 3:36). You know, living in the devil's world, living in the presence of this great country of ours, there's a lot of stuff going on. There is, as a pastor friend of mine says, a spiritual climate change happening. We are going to talk about that for the next few shows. By the way, you can access a podcast of these shows on Spotify. You can also go to our website, rickhughesministries.org, and access the radio shows and listen to them or you can contact us through the website and we will send you MP3s of the shows. Let's talk about the spiritual climate change in the United States of America. The frantic search for happiness that we see today in this country, leaves a cluttered trail of destruction and despair. I read the other day that on the average, there are one hundred twenty-three suicides committed every day. Why do people do this? I'll tell you one of the reasons, because everything appears empty. 'What's the use of going on,' they may think. Many young people, teenagers, are used up at an early age and they wind up ending it all because they see no future, no hope. They spend money they don't have, to buy things they don't need, to impress people they don't even like. They do all of this to deaden the pain of an empty life. I think hopelessness is a national disease. There are so many people that are hopeless today. These are two words I want you to key in on - loneliness and hopelessness. In an article in the *National Post*:

“Headlines suggests we've become consumed by loneliness. A new generation of Eleanor Rigbys half a century after the Beatles lament for the lonely: Why are 30somethings lonely? What you need to know about the Loneliness Epidemic. Loneliness is a human catastrophe. A recent Angus Reid Institute survey found that nearly half of Canadians sometimes or often feel alone. In the U.S., the number of Americans who feel they have no one with whom they can speak to has tripled since 1985. ‘...life is loneliness, despite all the opiates, despite the shrill tinsel gaiety of parties with no purpose, despite the false grinning faces we all wear,’ Sylvia Plath wrote in journals published nearly four decades ago. Today, people across the West are reporting higher levels of persistent loneliness than ever before.”

Don't worry about it, they are going to get a chill pill for loneliness. Did you know that? According to Randy Rieland, in another article:

“A University of Chicago scientist thinks that the hormone pregnenolone might reduce lonely people's fear of connecting and their risk of serious health problems. For the past year and a half - the study is scheduled to end this June - 96 lonely, but otherwise healthy subjects, have been receiving 400-milligram oral doses of pregnenolone, a hormone primarily produced by the adrenal gland. It has been associated with memory enhancement, but also stress reduction. If the research ultimately leads to a pharmacological treatment for loneliness, it would be a timely breakthrough.”

That's the world's system of solving the lonely problem. Listen to what Robi Ludwig, a nationally known psychotherapist, says:

“As a society, we have not been adept at helping young men manage their feelings of hopelessness and emasculation. We need to educate our youth and help them identify and deal with their uncomfortable emotions. We must teach them that feeling vulnerable or weak doesn't make them failures. There needs to be a way to provide emotional management to all young boys, especially the troubled ones. It is extremely important to help them identify and recognize their anger as it arises. We must help these young men handle feeling weak and desperate in a more effective and non-destructive way. We must ensure they are not fueled by hateful rhetoric or xenophobia. We also need to expand what it means to be ‘a man,’ so the disenfranchised don't choose killers as their idols.”

This is all human viewpoint thinking. We've kicked the Word of God out of our homes, out of our schools and out of the public agenda. Young people today are victims of cosmic thinking. They have no choice. They don't even see the difference. Their parents don't give them any Scripture to give them any background and a choice in life. They grow up falling sucker and victims to the cosmic system. Dr. Ludwig wants to know what it means to be a man? I'll tell you what a man is. A man has momentum in his life. Jesus Christ, our Lord said, “*Happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and keep it*” (Luke 11:28). **Hearing and keeping the Word of God on a consistent basis relieves loneliness for the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.** A man has momentum in his life and he has authority orientation. Where does he get it? He gets it at home from his parents. “*Children obey your parents, honor your father and your mother*” (Ephesians 6:1-2). When they don't obey, they get disciplined. It has to be that way; if you don't discipline your children then you bring them into the world as undisciplined maniacs doing what they want to do. We have to have authority orientation. That's gone today. They sneer

at the police officer. They laugh at the police officer. They don't obey the police officer. They cheat on their tests. They cheat on one another. They lie to their parents and their friends - no authority orientation. Finally a man has nobility and virtue and honor. Great character is what God is looking for and that's what makes a real true man [or woman] - nobility and virtue. A male, on the other hand, is minus any momentum in his life. He may have the body of a male, but he doesn't have the mind of a man. He doesn't have any momentum. He doesn't hear God's Word. He doesn't keep God's Word. His frame of reference is totally cosmic thinking. He is anti-authority. He doesn't obey authority. He does what he wants to do when he wants to do it and gets away with it. He's a loser. A loser in life and a loser in eternity if he rejects Christ as his Savior. A loser in life can't handle responsibility. A loser in life can't handle routine. A loser in life can't handle unfair testing. Their emotions take over and they go goofy on you. A male gets into emotional override. He lets his emotions control him, rather than his thinking. The Bible says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). Not these emotions. Emotions are bona fide and wonderful and a great appreciator of the soul, but they are not designed to dictate policy. Yet so many people today live by emotional revolt of the soul. They let their emotions dictate policy. You can see it on the interstate. You can see it on the highways. You can see the rage and frustration and the loss of temper - it's emotional override. So what does the Bible say about this sort of thinking? About this cosmic system thinking? About this human point thinking? We need a pill for loneliness, or that we need to counsel our young boys and teach them to be real men? Here's what the Bible (NIV edition) says, Ecclesiastes 10:2-3, "*The heart of the wise [the person who wants wisdom] inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left. Even as fools walk along the road they lack sense, and they show everyone how stupid they are.*" They show everybody how stupid they are because they live by human viewpoint thinking. They have rejected the Word of God, the plan of God and the assets that God gave them. They stuck their nose up at it and rejected all of that and bought in to some sort of cosmic system thinking. I'd like to title this message "America 2019, the Land of the Foolish." Why do I say that? Because of the change in values in this country, the change of the insight, the change in the future. We've changed. Everything that used to be evil is now sorta good and everything that used to be good is now almost evil. If we continue on the course that we are headed in this country we will have no future. What is a solution to this problem? I can highlight the problem, but is there a solution? The answer is, yes. In Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 (one of the wisdom books of the Bible) Solomon wrote, "*I again saw under the sun that the race is not one by the swift, and the battle doesn't always belong to the strong, nor does food always come to the wise, nor wealth to the brilliant, nor favor to the learned; for time and chance happen to them all. Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come: as fish are caught in a cruel net, and birds are taken in a snare, so people are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.*" That's the thing you can count on. There are times that evil will fall on you unexpectedly and if you don't know how to handle it you will be trapped. Trapped in loneliness, hopelessness and despair. One of the things that happens to everybody is death. There is no way around it. "*It*

is appointed unto man once to die after that the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). We will all eventually get there sooner or later. No one gets out of it. That's part of the wisdom of Solomon. He notes here that all people share the same distribution of adversity, prosperity and eventually the same ultimate fate. They will all eventually join the dead. The question is, how do we handle what appears to be coming our way since we have no idea of what we might be facing? We have the example of the importance of wisdom and how even when the wisdom is lifesaving, the giver of such wisdom will be forgotten. Wisdom is what we need. The New Testament calls it *sophia*. I'll show you why wisdom is important, but here's the issue. Even the person full of wisdom, the person who knows the answers and the solutions to the troubles of life will soon be forgotten because somebody else wants to take credit for it, someone else thinks they're smarter or someone else appreciates the gift but goes down the my-way-highway as soon as the trouble is gone. This is not very good news for pastors who hope to be remembered for their teaching of Biblical wisdom. The wisdom that I'm speaking of is found in the Bible, something the majority of Americans have forsaken. In another book of wisdom, Job 28:12-28, "*Where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? No mortal comprehends its worth, it cannot be found in the land of the living. The deep says, 'It is not in me' and the sea says, 'It is not with me.' It cannot be bought with the finest gold or its price be weighed out in silver. [we are talking about wisdom] Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it, nor can it be had for a vase of gold. Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention, the price of wisdom is beyond rubies. The topaz of Kush cannot compare with it, it cannot be bought with pure gold. Where then does wisdom come from? And where does understanding dwell? It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed from the birds of the sky. Destruction and Death say, 'Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.' God understands the way to it; and He alone knows where wisdom dwells. For He views the ends of the earth, and sees everything under the heavens. When He established the force of the wind, and measured out the waters, when He made a decree for the rain, and a path for the thunderstorm, when He looked at wisdom and appraised it, He confirmed it and tested it. And He said to the human race, 'The fear of the Lord, that's wisdom; and to shun evil is understanding.'*" Proverbs 3:7 says, "*Do not be wise in your own eyes; [that's human viewpoint thinking] fear the Lord [respect Him] and depart from evil [Satan's cosmic system].*" In the New Testament, Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:17, "*Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*" To be foolish is lack of knowledge; the inability to use knowledge wisely. What's the difference between knowledge and wisdom? The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 8:1, "*A little bit of knowledge puffs up.*" The Greek word for knowledge is *gnosis* and the Greek word for wisdom is *sophia*. There's a difference in the two. Knowledge is something you've heard and you've understood but you haven't applied it. Wisdom is something you've heard, understood, believed and applied. "*Do not be foolish*" means don't have a lack of understanding, "*but understand what the will of the Lord is.*" The word foolish denotes simple stupidity but it's also ignorance and willful rebellion against God and His will. As an example, you can read Romans 1:18-32 which talks about those who "*suppress the truth in unrighteousness; professing themselves to have wisdom,*

they became fools; because they did not like to retain God in their knowledge.” Read Romans 1:18-32 and you’ll see where a lot of our problems come from today. God has given you and me the opportunity to understand His wisdom; it comes through the mind of Christ. In Proverbs 1:7, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* The fool is not interested. **America is the land of the foolish. By and large, most Americans are not interested in what the Bible says about marriage, what the Bible says about family, what the Bible says about freedom, what the Bible says about internationalism. They’re not interested. They’re only interested in what they want.** There are some Americans who are interested in what the Bible has to say - some really great Americans - but most could care less about the Bible. They’ve got one. It’s a good luck charm. Some of them put it in the back window of the car hoping they don’t get hit. Some of them have it under the coffee table at home but they don’t ever read it. They don’t go to church. They don’t get instruction from God. Not at all. Will the America that you and I know today survive if it continues on the current path? What kind of path? The path made by the decisions of fools. Most of our leaders reject the notion that God’s wisdom is found in Christ. Most leaders in Congress and in the government don’t want to know about that. They reject the idea that God’s wisdom is found in Jesus Christ. In my own state they threw the Ten Commandments out of the courthouse and out of the capital. They said, ‘It’s offensive to people.’ That shows how stupid and foolish we really are. We are so stupid that we actually think we are smarter than God. **As a nation, we are so foolish that we actually think we don’t need God’s instructions, that we can handle it all on our own.** You can see we’re doing a pretty good job of messing it up. We are a divided nation today. Satan is really good at dividing and conquering. If we continue on the path we are on there will not be a free America in the future. Most of our leaders reject the idea of God’s wisdom concerning divine institutions like marriage. God has been replaced with humanism and diversity. They are not interested in what the Bible says about marriage between a man and a woman. No, we’ve gone for humanism and diversity. The family as an authority structure is now denied. There’s no discipline allowed. If you punish your child they’ll call some sort of government agency that will take your children away from you. Our freedom is surrendered for some sort of temporary security. They want somebody to take care of them. Many politicians today promise free college, free healthcare, free this and free that - that’s all a farce. Nationalism is rejected for internationalism; thinking we need to be friends with the world and we need to be grouped together and we all need to have the same currency and we need one guy to lead us all across the world. The Bible says eventually that’s going to happen with the antichrist but not now. The words of Solomon are just as true today as they were when he wrote it. Proverbs 1:22-33, *“How long will you who are simple, love your simple ways? And mockers delight in mocking, and fools hate knowledge? Repent at My rebuke [God said], and then I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make known to you My teachings. But you refused to listen when I called, and no one paid attention when I stretched out My hand; and you disregarded all My advice, and did not accept My rebuke; [the Lord said here in this passage] then in turn I will laugh when disaster strikes*

you; I will mock when calamity overtakes you, when calamity overtakes you like a storm, and disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelms you. Then they will call on Me, but I will not answer; then they will look for Me, but they will not find Me, because they hated knowledge, and they did not choose the fear the Lord [that's wisdom]. They would not accept My advice, they spurned My rebuke. Now they will eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. But whoever will listen to Me will live safely, and be at ease without fear of harm." Man, you talk about a critique of America today. This is us. We refuse to listen. We are not interested in listening. We are interested in doing it our way. We don't want to offend anybody. We want to stay in the middle of the road, so to say, and we are filled with the fruit of our own schemes. Our nation is being divided. Our nation is falling apart. People are killing themselves. They're unhappy, they're lonely, they're miserable, they're empty. Is there anything you can do about it for the future of this nation? Yes, there is one thing you can do. You can be a man or woman with wisdom because sooner or later people are going to need it. You can be the one who has wisdom - wisdom from the knowledge of Christ and the claims of Jesus Christ. Wisdom is the simplicity of faith alone in Christ alone; not trying to work for your salvation, not trying to earn it or buy it. Faith alone in Christ alone is wisdom. You can't buy that wisdom and you can't inherit that wisdom; you have to acquire it for yourself before you can have any sort of impact in the world. In Ecclesiastes 9:14-15 (I encourage you to read it) there was one man with wisdom that delivered an entire city from a king. One man with wisdom. That's all God needs - one person with wisdom, one person with the Word of God in their soul, one person who thinks divine viewpoint, one person who is committed to the cause of Christ with objectivity. That's what God is looking for. **Wisdom comes from knowledge and when you have the knowledge of the Word of God it produces insight and discernment. Wisdom is acquired as a byproduct of personal love for God.** *"If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not grievous"* (John 14:15). What exactly am I supposed to obey? Psalm 34:12-16, you can read it for yourself. Do you want to really live? Would you like to live a long happy life? Then make sure you don't speak evil words or use deceptive speech. That's wisdom. There is so much more to say about this but my time is gone. I hope your are interested. I hope your are listening. I hope you'll come back next week. I will continue this and we will press on in this study of America, the Land of the Foolish. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

America, The Land of the Foolish - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 732 aired on September 1, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I'm going to ask you to stick around. It'll be thirty-minutes of motivation, inspiration, education without any type of manipulation. We don't play games. We're not trying to hustle you for money, we're not trying to get you to join up, give it up, fess it up - nothing like that. We're just trying to get you to listen up. Listen to the information. My job is to verify and identify the plan of God for you, for your family, for your nation. Your job is to orient and adjust, should you desire to do so, that's up to you. I can promise you this, I'll be accurate, I won't mislead you, I won't lead you into some kind of goofy stuff. I will show you what the Bible says and let you figure it out on your own. It is my prayer that you are the person I'm looking for. I'm always on the search. I'm searching for people that are hungry to learn God's Word. That's why we do this show. Those sort of people can become what I call part of the pivot that can deliver this nation from the coming disaster. A pivot potential, a pivot member, a mature believer that God can count on like Gideon. Gideon was a pivot person and God counted on him to deliver Israel from the Midianite Army. That's what God is looking for - a few good men and women that love Him, that love His Word, that want to grow to spiritual maturity and glorify Jesus Christ to the maximum. Unfortunately, we live in a nation that seems to be rejecting the plan of God. That's what we've been talking about - the spiritual climate change in America in the year 2019. What's going on? Let's pick up where we left off last week and see if we can dig into this a little bit. The keyword is wisdom. No one wants to learn to get wisdom. No one wants understanding. No one wants knowledge. People are not willing to get it. They just seem to want to go by their own wisdom and their own knowledge. They think they know all the answers. We started off in this study with a verse that said, *"The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left, even as fools walk along the road they lack sense and show everyone how stupid they are"* (Ecclesiastes 10:2-3). America is showing the world how stupid we are. Why are we stupid? Because everything that used to be evil is now accepted as good and everything that used to be good is now being touted as evil. We have begun to formulate plans for a successful nation based on the wisdom of fools. We are in trouble because we've neglected the divine establishment principles that made this country what it is - freedom, marriage, family and nationalism (the four divine institutions). In Proverbs 3:7, the Bible warns us, *"Do not be wise in your own eyes"* [that's human viewpoint]. What's wrong with looking to the Bible for answers? What is it that is so offensive that people don't want to read the Bible? They don't want the Ten Commandments in a school. They don't want the Ten Commandments in the courthouse. What's wrong with that? Why is that so offensive? Do people not realize that Satan has done a tremendous job of dividing this country? Satan uses people and organizations (like the Freedom From Religion Foundation) that as soon as someone in leadership begins to offer a prayer or has a Bible on their desk they get slapped with a letter threatening a lawsuit. It's pitiful and that's where we stand today. *"Do not be wise in your own eyes [human viewpoint thinking]; fear the*

Lord [respect Him] and depart from evil [that's Satan's cosmic system].” Go to the right or go to the left. Go to the right - that's God's wisdom. Go to the left - that's the satanic cosmic system. Satan is a wonderful counterfeiter. He counterfeits God's plan. He can't offer you what God does but he can offer you something else. God offers you eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Satan offers you eternal life maybe through organized religion if you are good enough. That's not what the Bible says. The Bible says, *“For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should brag about it”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). Paul picked up the same concept in Ephesians 5:17, *“Don't be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is.”* How can you understand it if you don't know it? How can you know it if you don't learn it? How can you learn it if you don't hear it? That's what Satan has been successfully doing - shutting off the teaching of the Word of God in our schools, in our public arena. Even at a football game somebody's offended if they have a prayer. It's crazy. It's not a lack of knowledge but the inability to use that knowledge wisely that is the issue. People know about God. They can look around, Romans tells you that you can look into the stars and realize somebody made that, but they reject that knowledge and don't use it wisely. They don't want to know where the information comes from, what the knowledge is. They reject the Bible. They are making a critical mistake. The fool denotes stupidity, but also it can denote ignorance and willful rebellion against God and His will. Last week I cited Romans 1:18-32 and asked you to read it. It says, *“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and they did not like to retain God in their knowledge.”* They are not interested in anything God has to say. They're interested in going down the my-way-highway. They're interested in somebody's human viewpoint thinking rather than the Scriptures. God has given you the opportunity to understand His wisdom. He has recorded it for you in the Bible, in the Scriptures - it's called *“the mind of Christ”* in Philippians 2:5. That's what the disciples were tasked with doing - recording the thoughts of Christ, the words of Christ and the deeds of Christ. It's all there for us if we take the opportunity to learn it, if we take the opportunity to understand it. He's even equipped men with the gift of pastor-teacher who can go into the Scriptures in the original languages (Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic) and explain to you what these words mean that you don't understand. The Scripture, in the original languages, is as close as we have to the canon of Scripture. You must have someone that can explain the isagogics of these words - what they mean. You've got to have someone who understands it. A well-qualified pastor is what all of us have to have. I have one, you must have one. There is not a morning goes by that I don't get up and listen to my pastor. I put in a DVD and study as he teaches in his church. I'm watching, I'm learning, I'm growing. There never is a time when you should quit growing. God gives us that opportunity to grow. We learn to *“respect the Lord and that's the beginning of all knowledge [listen to the next part of Proverbs 1:7] fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* Why will the America we know not survive if it continues on the current path? Because we are being led by fools - not the administration, I'm not talking about the President, I'm talking about Congress. Many of our elected leaders reject even the notion that God's wisdom is found in Christ. They reject that

concept completely. Why will we not survive if we continue on the current path? Because many reject the idea of God's wisdom concerning the divine institutions such as marriage between a man and a woman - no one else. Marriage, as an institution of God, has been replaced by humanism and diversity. The concept of the family has fallen apart today, thus no authority structure. If there's no authority, the kids are raised with no discipline. I've said before, the biggest child abuse is to raise a child and send him out into the devil's world without arming him with divine viewpoint thereby giving him a chance, without letting him know what the Bible says to give him the opportunity to at least choose which road he wants to follow. If he doesn't know his choices, he's going to go the wrong way. Most Americans are going to surrender their freedom for security. That's what we're looking at today. The words of Solomon ring true. *"How long will you that are simple love your simple ways? How long will you mockers delight in mocking God? Because fools hate knowledge"* (Proverbs 1:22). What can we do about the future? In Ecclesiastes 9:14-15 one poor man with wisdom delivered a city. Just one poor man with wisdom. You can be that person with wisdom that can deliver your city, your nation, your family, your home but you have to do this: **(1) You can't buy wisdom and you can't inherit it, you must acquire it for yourself** before you can have any sort of impact. You must acquire wisdom. **What is wisdom? It's simply you acquiring the mind of Christ** or fulfilling Romans 12:3, *"Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think; but think in terms of sanity as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word."* Wisdom is you rejecting the control of arrogance in your life. Wisdom is you saying no to self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption - you saying no to these things and you saying yes to what the Word of God has to say. Wisdom is simply you acquiring the mind of Christ. All wisdom comes from knowledge and produces insight and discernment. Discernment gives you the ability to see what other people don't see. Wisdom is a byproduct of your personal love for God. The Bible says, *"If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard"* (1 John 5:3). Here's a suggestion. Do you want to really live life? Psalm 34:12-16 tells you how, *"If you want to really live a long and happy life [here it is] make sure you don't speak evil words or use deceptive speech. Turn away from evil and do what is right; strive for peace and promote peace. The Lord pays attention to the godly, and hears their cry for help. The Lord opposes the evildoer and wipes out all memory of them from the earth."* Deceptive speech, evil words, the public lie goes on so much today in politics you can't believe it. If you yell it loud enough, long enough and often enough, people believe it. It's unbelievable, the strife, the contention, the division that's in this country today. Do you want to live a long happy life? Quit running people down, quit lying about other people, turn away from evil, do what's right, strive for peace and promote it. The Lord is paying attention to the godly and He hears their cry for help. This means your prayer will not go unanswered. As you pray for our nation, as you pray for our President, as you pray for your family, God hears your prayer. In 2 Peter 3:18 Peter tells us we need to *"grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* In Proverbs 2:1-9, listen carefully, *"My son, if you will hear my Words and if you will treasure my mandates within you so*

that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; and you will cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding; if you seek wisdom as you would silver and search for her as you would a hidden treasure; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, then you will find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; and He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the path of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity and every good path.” Those are the words of Solomon written hundreds of years ago. So what happened to your wisdom? Where did your wisdom go? Has it given you any insight to God's will for your life and the direction God wants you to go in your life when dealing with other people? Or do you fail people testing because you have no wisdom and never learned how to use impersonal love (problem-solving device #8). Has your wisdom given you insight or did you get distracted or discouraged from growing spiritually? Did you just get tired of going to church and tired of going to Bible study? You've got other things going on that are more important don't you? You have allowed Satan to divide and conquer you through the failure of your own spiritual life. Your family is divided, your thoughts are divided and you are in deep trouble. That's exactly what's going on in this nation. Sometimes Satan divides and conquers us through the failure of people that we admire. We see them fail, like Peter failed the Lord and the disciples saw it and they all got a little upset. Peter said, 'I don't know Him,' even after the Lord warned Peter that he was going to do that. Did you fail to use the wisdom of impersonal love and let the justice of God handle the details of the people test that you faced? Here's a principle, how could you ever be that one wise man that delivers the nation, how could you ever have an invisible historical impact in a nation that's failing, like America, if you can't control your own sin nature? There have been thousands of hours of the Word of God taught, flowing from pulpits. Where were you when the pastors were watering the flock? **The truth is this, without an active current spiritual life you are not helping anyone, not even yourself.** Even the disciples got distracted from time to time. They argued over who was the greatest, who Jesus loved the most and did He really come back to life. They got tired of waiting for Him in Galilee so they went fishing. They'd been sent there to fish for men not for fish. Even pastors get distracted, especially when they think they are smarter and wiser than those who mentored them. Remember the words of Paul to young pastor Timothy, this is critical: *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, rightly dividing the Word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). Blind arrogance can cause you to see things that are not there. This is true for pastors. **A wise pastor produces a wise congregation that imparts blessing by association to a dying nation. The invisible impact you could have as a mature believer on this nation is incredible.** Invisible God + invisible assets + invisible impact of you + invisible power equals invisible heroes which you must be if we are going to leave our children and grandchildren a future with any opportunity. The Bible says you can have a personal impact in history by being a blessing by association to others. David said, *“Surely goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life”* (Psalm 23:6). Anybody in his periphery was blessed - blessing by association. You

can have a historical impact. That means that your life can be a blessing to the client nation USA. Your spiritual life is the key - as goes your spiritual life, so goes the future of this country. You can have an international impact by blessing by association to non-client nations by means of missionary activity when we support, pay for, fund missionaries who go to nations that don't necessarily worship God. You can have an angelic impact by being a witness for God in the appeal trial of Satan. You could have a heritage impact by being a blessing by association to your loved ones, even after you are dead. **With available assets provided by God's grace, there is only one reason why we fail, and that's because we have negative volition. We're not interested, we're not hungry, we're distracted, we're divided and we're failing. This client nation to God is blessed by a pivot of mature believer whose invisible historical impact is the key to the function of America and the key to the perpetuation of this nation. As goes any believer's life in any generation, so goes the history of that nation.** How goes your spiritual life? This is where we mess up. The problem is not sin in America, so don't point your finger at people for what they're doing. The problem is distracted Christians, those who cannot and do not maintain their momentum. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, *"If My people that are called by My name will humble themselves, turn from their wicked ways and seek My face, then I'll hear their prayer and heal their land."* You are the solution - you. It's not sin, it's you. It's because you have no desire to gain wisdom. You have no desire to get understanding. You just want to be a casual Christian and play church. As goes your spiritual life, so goes the history of this nation. Where are you? Are you hungry for the Word? Are you hungry to grow? Are you hungry to become a mature believer? Are you hungry to be that one man that God can count on? **Inconsistent spiritual growth leads to an inconsistent spiritual life. The first thing that goes in your life is failing to study the Word of God, failing to show up for church. The second thing is the rate of forgetting gets greater than the rate of learning. The next thing is you forget to confess your sins, you forget to rebound. Then you lose all of your momentum and you replace your spiritual momentum with your hobby, with your children or chasing the details of life.** Has that happened to you? Have you lost your spiritual momentum? Maintaining spiritual momentum is never easy. There are some mandates in Scripture if you hope to fulfill God's plan and purpose for your life, such as 2 Peter 3:18, *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* The Greek word for grow is an imperative mood verb. It's a present tense which means there is never a time when you are not to grow. As long as you are here, as long as you are occupying space, as long as you are breathing air, you are to grow spiritually. This imperative verb is a mandate, not merely a suggestion. There's never a day in your life that you can skip growing spiritually. This mandate is for you to accumulate knowledge, *grow in the grace and knowledge*, and also to understand grace. It's not hard to see who understands grace when people testing comes along. You can be around someone for a short period of time and find out if they know how to grace people out, if they know how to give people grace, the same kind of grace God gave them. And knowledge, like the knowledge of Matthew 7, keep your mouth shut, don't judge other people, keep your nose out of other people's

business (Matthew 7:1-5). That counts as the act of treating people in grace or letting God handle the details. If you don't have the knowledge of Matthew 7:1-5, you don't have the positive volition to obey it, then you are a problem. You cannot have a historical impact if you can't have a grace impact, especially on your own family, friends and in your local church. It requires impersonal love and grace extended just as God gave the same kind of grace to you. God did not get His feelings hurt when you ignored His will for your life did He? But you get your feelings hurt when another believer doesn't do what you want them to do. If you get your feelings hurt by another believer, that's a tough test to pass if you don't use the grace asset of impersonal love. Never try to defend yourself, even if the fact is untrue, don't try to justify yourself - let the Supreme Court of Heaven handle it. 2 Timothy 2:16-17 says, "*Avoid [another imperative mood verb] profane and idle babbling, for they will increase to more ungodliness and spread like cancer.*" That means don't get into territory you don't belong because it will divide and conquer your family, your church, your spiritual life. Just as we can only fall to our own internal self, so a local church can only be destroyed from within by people that get into idle babbling. In 2 Timothy 2:15 another mandate says, "*Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.*" The word *study* is another imperative mood verb which in the Greek it means to make haste, to exert yourself, due diligence. Make haste to do what? Show yourself approved.

"In the ancient world there was no banking system as we know it today, and no paper money. All money was made from metal heated until liquid, poured into moulds, and allowed to cool. When the coins were cool, it was necessary to smooth off the uneven edges. The coins were comparatively soft, and of course many people shaved them closely. In one century, more than eighty laws were passed in Athens to stop the practice of shaving down the coins then in circulation. But some moneychangers were men of integrity, who would accept no counterfeit money; they were men of honor who put only genuine, full-weight money into circulation. Such men were called *dokimos* or approved. And this word is used here for Christians as he is to be seen by the world." (Donald Grey Barnhouse, *Romans: God's Glory*, p18.)

So does your spiritual life meet God's approval? Are you a *dokimos*? Are you rightly dividing the Word of truth? Are you getting it straight, rightly dividing the Scriptures. It's your job to do that because if you can't then there's trouble on the horizon. Your job is to pass on what you learn, and if you are not learning it how can you pass it on? How can you divide it rightly if you don't have someone to teach it to you correctly? That's why you need a local pastor that understands the languages and can teach the Word of God correctly. There is a lot more to say but I'm running out of time quickly. I pray you are listening. I pray you are paying attention. I pray this show will encourage you to be that one man with wisdom that can deliver this nation from what we face in the coming future. Until next week, I'm your host, Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

A Soul in Chaos - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 733 aired on September 8, 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 hang around, listen up, stick with me. Just a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, and, as always, we do not use manipulation. We don't solicit money, we don't sell anything, we're not asking you to join anything. All we're asking you to do is listen. Listen as I try to verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you can understand that, you have the freedom and privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. God gave you two ends; one end you sit on and one end you think with. Success in your life depends on which one you use; heads you win, tails you lose. As we study the Bible our objective is to give divine viewpoint. Our objective is to help you renovate your thinking - soul renovation. Soul renovation comes before physical renovation. You are a living soul which means you have mentality - the ability to think and make decisions. You have volition - the ability to choose what you want to do. You choose whether or not you wish to listen to God. You have a conscience (the ability to think about things and remember things). You have self-consciousness and awareness which sometimes surfaces when you least expect it in your dreams. Your soul is made up basically of mentality, volition, consciousness, self-consciousness. You do have emotion but that seems to be more a part of your mentality than the format of your soul. Where the big problem occurs is when we try to live by letting our emotions dictate policy. We have to change our soul before we change our actions. Until we learn, until we apply the Word of God, we continue to follow the same trends - sometimes destructive trends. The Word of God, if you learn it, if you metabolize it - which means you put it into application - then it can remove old patterns in your life that are destructive, and thus fulfill your purpose for life, which is to have, the reason God created you, to have a wonderful full meaningful life that glorifies Him. That's why He created you. But so many people today are in chaos. I call them, as a friend of mine who is a pastor talks about it, a soul in chaos. That's what we have today. Many young people across this great nation are souls in chaos. Loneliness and hopelessness are diseases that are rampant, causing many people to consider suicide to end their lives. They see no way out, having burned up all their energy and all their time, and some kill themselves. It's a tragic end to a life. **That's never the design that God has for you. God has a wonderful plan for you.** In Jeremiah, He said He knows the plans He has for you - to bless you and to promote you and to give you a great life. But when you stupidly choose to ignore the Word of God - and I use the word stupidly, I said it, yes, the fool is stupid, the Bible says, because he thinks he's smarter than God. He thinks 'I know God said that in the Bible, but I don't really believe the Bible' and so he rejects any divine viewpoint. Fools, those who reject the Word of God, trot down the my-way-highway thinking they are smarter than God and they don't need God. Everything in the Word of God, everything in the Bible, is designed to give them a wonderful, full, meaningful life and they reject every bit of it. They reject the knowledge of the Word of God. Consequently, they get no wisdom and without wisdom there's no discernment or insight in your life. The Bible does talk about the soul

in chaos. I'm going to read to you Ephesians 4:17-21 out of the King James version of the Bible, here's what it says, "*This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord* [this is written by the apostle Paul], *that you henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feelings, have given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you did not learn this from Christ, if so be it that you have heard Him and have been told by Him as the truth is in Jesus Christ.*" Here we find a soul with scar tissue, a heart that is hard. We are going to break this passage down for you and show it to you because you may have a grandchild, you may have a child, you may have a friend that is in this condition - their heart is hard. They don't see themselves as they really are. They see themselves as they think they are. This is a trend of arrogance. Self-justification always sees itself as it thinks it is. An arrogant person always demands an unrealistic expectation. They demand being treated in a way that they are not worthy of being treated because they think they're something they're not. So here's what the Bible says, this is Paul writing about the soul in chaos, "*This I testify in the Lord...*" Now, if you will allow me, I'd like to go into the Greek New Testament where these words have a different meaning. We go into the morphology of these words. That's why I use these Greek words sometimes. I'm not trying to show off. I'm not a Greek scholar. I just have enough knowledge to use Greek because it helps to get the understanding of these words and what I'm studying. Paul says, "*I testify in the Lord...*" The word testify is the Greek word *marturomai*, it means to solemnly exhort, or solemnly testify. This is a very emphatic statement by the apostle Paul. He emphatically (like sitting at a desk and pounding his fist on the desk) says, I'm telling you, I am testifying to you. And then he says, "*...in the Lord...*" That's a prepositional phrase that shows the source of this, where it's coming from, the source of the information he's about to give comes from God the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit revealed it to him and he reveals it to us in the pages of the Scripture. When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, I don't know if he ever envisioned that it would eventually be in what we call the canon of Scripture or a Bible, and that we would be reading it thousands of years later. But God the Holy Spirit preserved the writings of the apostle Paul, the writings of John, the writings of Peter, the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, all for us, so that we can learn how Jesus Christ thought. Why do we need to learn how Jesus Christ thought? Because the Bible says in Philippians 2:5, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" That's called thinking divine viewpoint. **Unless we learn to think divine viewpoint, we will all self-destruct through human viewpoint, by being sucked into the devil's cosmic system and buying into the lies that Satan gives.** Just like Eve bought in; she bought in to the lie in the garden because she, in her arrogance, thought maybe God was hiding something from her. That's what Satan made it sound like - God's hiding something from you. So when we see *testify in the Lord*, this is the source of the information - God the Holy Spirit. And then Paul goes on to say, "*...I want you not to walk like Gentiles walk ...*" - the word walk does not mean taking a stroll down the street. This is the word *peripateo* and it means to regulate your

life, conduct your affairs. It's just a way of putting it. I want you to conduct your affairs, regulate your lives not like Gentiles do it. Don't live your life like Gentiles live their life. The word for Gentiles is *ethnos* and it refers to unbelievers. **A Christian is never to mimic an unbeliever. Whatever the unbeliever finds to be entertaining, whatever the unbeliever finds to be motivational, whatever the unbeliever finds to be stimulating is not for the Christian. We are to walk differently. We are to live differently.** How do they live? How does the unbeliever live? The Bible says he lives in the vanity of his mind. Listen again, *"This I say therefore and testify in the Lord that you walk not as the unbelievers walk in the vanity of their mind ..."* What does that mean? The word vanity is an interesting Greek word, it's the word *mataiotes* and it means a vacuum or an empty head. What exactly is a vacuum? As an illustration, I always like to use the simple science experiment of an egg being sucked into a bottle after the oxygen is used up inside it (caused by heat from a burning paper placed in the bottle). When the outside air pressure becomes greater than the inside air pressure, the egg is forced into the bottle. This is what happens when you have an empty head. When you reject the knowledge of the Word of God, when you have no divine insight, when you are trapped in the cosmic system you have arrogance plus ignorance (a friend of mine often says that equals artificial intelligence - AI - arrogance and ignorance). Many people choose to ignore the Word of God and the Bible says they are a fool. The Bible says they're stupid because they think they're smarter than God. God preserved His Word for you. God laid out a plan for your life where you can have not only the best life now, but even eternal life through the sacrifice of His anointed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was our substitute on the cross, who paid for our sin. If we reject that and we say I don't believe that and then we reject all the provisions and the principles and the promises taught in the Bible - you are setting yourself up for one miserable life. You are going to self-destruct eventually, there's no way around it, you have to. Because of the parameters of what God laid out in eternity past, you will self-destruct. **If you have an empty head, this means you have rejected the knowledge of the Word of God, you do not have any divine insight, and thus you are trapped as a prisoner chained to the cosmic system.** An empty mind. The word mind is the Greek word *nous*. So, if your mind is empty, what's on the outside is greater than what's on the inside. If there's no divine viewpoint inside, then the cosmic system forces into your head (just like the outside pressure forced the egg into the bottle) all of the satanic strategy, the satanic viewpoint, the satanic plans that Satan has (which are all called evil as opposed to God's plan, which is grace) and you will live one miserable rotten life as a slave to Satan and his agenda. You won't know it. You'll think you are having a wonderful time for a while until it catches up with you. The empty mind, the mentality of the soul is empty if there's no divine viewpoint (that means there's no knowledge of God) in your mind; which means you have no wisdom, you have no insight, you have no discernment to what's going on. Thus you are stupid because you choose to go through life on your own. Proverbs 3:7, *"Do not be wise in your own eyes; [thinking you know better than God] fear the Lord and depart from evil [Satan's plan is evil]."* So *"don't be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and depart from evil,"* that's the writer of Proverbs. Listen

to what Paul said in Ephesians 5:17, *“Don’t be foolish [stupid] but understand what the will of the Lord is.”* Don’t go through life stupid. Don't reject the Word of God. Don't reject the claims of Christ. Don't reject everything God provided for you because in your own eyes you think you are smarter than God. *“Don't be wise in your own eyes,”* the passage says. A person that has an empty head, who has no divine viewpoint stored upstairs in the brain, has a vacuum in his head. They have rejected knowledge and are trapped in the cosmic system living on artificial intelligence - arrogance plus ignorance. Look at verse 18, *“having their understanding darkened”* this goes right along with the passage. I'll read it to you again, *“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, don't live like the Gentiles live, in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened...”* Understanding is the Greek word *dianoia* and it means the ability to think and reason. **Thus the people who have a vacuum in their mind have no ability to think and no ability to reason, meaning they have no insight and no discernment since they operate on emotions. So if it feels good they do it, if it feels bad they stay away from it. They are in emotional overload in their soul and eventually they will self-destruct going down the my-way-highway.** This is where the hopelessness comes from and this is where the loneliness comes from and this may be why people consider suicide. They think there's no way out. They didn't listen to God to start with and then they think it's at the end of the road. Listen carefully. **It is never the end of the road for you. God loves you. God has a wonderful plan for your life.** You can recover. You can get back with the program. But first you must accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. You must come to the Father and say, 'Father, I'm a sinner and I know it and I'm willing to receive Christ today.' If you'll make that decision then you will start on the road to learning how to glorify God. If you are Christian and you've been out of fellowship because of sin in your life, then you recover by going to God and using problem-solving device #1: rebound, which says, *“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). You can do this at any time. I encourage you, if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you've broken fellowship with God, you have not been growing, you have not been advancing in your spiritual life, you have not been keeping your sin nature in check and you've let it run amok in your life to where it's gotten you in trouble - stop and confess the sin to God. He is not through with you. He still has a plan for your life. If you are here when the smoke clears, there is still something He wants you to do. There's never a time in your life when you should consider ending it all in suicide. That's crazy. People that have a vacuum in their mind have their *“understanding darkened”* - Ephesians 4:18 - *dianoia*, they don't have the ability to think and the understanding is darkened. Darkened is the word *skotizo* and it means blackout, blacked out. A person goes through life with blacked out understanding. Listen, in 2 Corinthians 4:4, the Bible says, *“In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, so that he can prevent them from seeing the illuminating light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”* Satan is good at blinding people, putting people in darkness, blacking people out; and people willingly, voluntarily follow his plan. They reject the Word of God, they reject the plan of God, and they follow that satanic plan of evil right

to their death. It's unbelievable. Having their understanding darkened - separated from God's plan in their life - separated from God's plan, they're on their own highway. Proverbs 1:7 says *"The fear of the Lord is where knowledge begins; but fools [stupid people] despise wisdom and instruction."* They don't want it. Number one, they don't have enough humility to admit they've been wrong; and number two, they're so arrogant that they still think they're smarter than God (Satan gets a big chuckle out of that). *"The respect of the Lord [the fear of the Lord] is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and despise instruction."* They don't want it, they don't like it, it doesn't taste good. It's like trying to get a kid to eat broccoli - he won't do it. And a believer out of fellowship with God, the believer who is on the my-way-highway in his arrogance, will despise instruction and wisdom from God. Why do they do it? Well the verse tells you, because of the ignorance that is in them. Ignorance in them is the word *agnoia* and that's the result of the negative volition to God. They are not interested in the claims of Christ and you cannot convince them to be interested in the claims of Christ. The best you can do is pray for them. You can ask God the Holy Spirit to open their eyes and to reveal to them their natural state and what state they are in. Pray that He does that through divine discipline in their life if they are Christians. If they are not Christians, if they are unbelievers, you can pray for them - specifically for them to hear the gospel and for them to make a positive decision to believe in Jesus Christ. Ignorance that is in them - listen to Proverbs 2:10-11, *"When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul; then discretion will preserve you, and understanding will keep you."* *"When wisdom enters your heart,"* - the first thing is to have the wisdom of God which is the plan of Christ. That's the first thing. That's the wisdom of God in eternity past - He provided a way for us to go to heaven. *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him"* (Corinthians 5:21). God in His infinite wisdom and motivated by His eternal love for you and me provided a way out of our sin and His own Son paid a price. So *"when wisdom enters our heart,"* when we come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and we see the plan of God and then *"knowledge is desirable,"* it's pleasant, it's like chocolate cake, you can't get enough of it. It's pleasant to your soul, to the mentality of the thinking of your soul. **If you come to the place in your life where you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and begin to have a hunger for the Word of God, the Bible says, "...then discretion will preserve you and understanding will keep you."** That means you won't self-destruct. That means you will get off of the my-way-highway and get on the Thy-way-Highway. So why do people do this? *"...having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them because of the blindness of their heart,"* the Bible says. *"Because of the blindness of their heart"* - the word blindness is not blindness at all; that's a mistranslation. It's the word *porosis* and it means to be covered with a callous, to be hard, to be dull, dulled in spiritual perception. Have you ever seen a farmer sit around and take a knife and whittle away the calluses on his hand or the calluses on his feet? When a person's heart gets hard then the callousness covers his heart - no guilt, no shame. They simply have dulled spiritual perception and this is what happens by completely ignoring the Word of God over and over and

over again. How do they do it? Romans 1:21, *“Because when they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were they thankful; but they became vain in their imagination, and their foolish hearts were darkened [skotizo].”* *“Their foolish heart was darkened,”* - blacked out (the word we used) blacked out. And then in Proverbs 1:32-33, *“The waywardness of the simple will kill him [that’s the stupid person] and the complacency of a fool [that’s the stupid person] will destroy him but whoever will listen to me will live in safety and be at ease without fear of harm.”* There is a divine promise of divine protection. So these people have rejected that and they are *“past feeling,”* they are a soul in chaos. They feel no guilt. They feel no shame. They feel nothing. Their heart is hard. This is why a young kid could kill somebody and laugh about it. This goes on all across America every day with gang initiation (go out and kill somebody and laugh about it to prove that they belong in the gang). The Bible says in Proverbs 3:35, *“The wise will inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotion of the fool”* and *“...they give themselves over to lasciviousness to work it with greed...”* To *“work uncleanness with greed”* - they can't get enough of it. Romans 1:28, *“Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do the things which are not proper.”* Romans 1:32, *“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they who commit such things are worthy of death, not only do they do the same, but they have pleasure in what they do.”* What's a reprobate mind? It's a mind called *adokimos*, it's a mind that cannot stand the test. *Dokimos* is a word for approved but we have a negative *“a”* in front of it, meaning not approved. It's a way of thinking that God does not approve of since they rejected his knowledge as in Proverbs 1:29, *“They hated knowledge they did not choose the fear of the Lord.”* What happened to them? *“...they worked uncleanness with greed...”* What does that mean? Well, lustful living, fulfilling the desires of the flesh, could not get enough of it, rejected the plan of God, a soul in chaos, with greed - *pleonexia* means to covet it more and more and more. Romans 1:29-31, *“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornicators, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, insolent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.”* Does that sound like America today? Oh, my gosh, it does. We have souls in chaos. I'm here to tell you that you can break out of that because the Bible says, *“If any man is in Christ he is a new creature a new creation all the old things are passed away and they become new.”* In an instant, by making one simple decision to believe in Jesus Christ, you can start again. You can have the slate wiped clean. You can have eternal life and a spiritual life in which to grow and mature and understand and learn God's plan. I hope you've listened. I hope you are not a soul in chaos. If you need help, write to me anytime, anywhere, any day. Until then, this is your host, Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

A Soul in Chaos - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 734 aired on September 15, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes inviting you to stick around for just a few minutes. We'd like to give you some information - no manipulation, no conning you, not trying to hustle money, not trying to get you to join anything - just offering solid, sound information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you are interested you can orient and adjust to the plan. You have your own free will, your own volition; you can choose for or against the plan of God at any time in your life. My job is to give you that information that will help you decide what you want to do. God gave you two ends; one to sit with and one to think with. Success in your life depends on which one you use; heads you win, tails you lose. The purpose of the FLOT Line is to teach you God's wonderful problem-solving devices - ten unique problem-solving devices that act as a main line of resistance and keep the outside sources of adversity from ever becoming the inside source of stress. We remind you of Biblical truths. We introduce you to an in-depth way of studying and learning the Word of God. Thank you for listening. We want to continue our study today that we started last week called a "Soul in Chaos." We went through a verse in Ephesians and we talked about scar tissue in the soul and what happens when you build scar tissue in the soul. I'm going to go through that verse again and then continue on. This is Ephesians 4:17-20. Scar tissue in the soul. You may be asking yourself what is scar tissue in the soul? Well, listen as I read and I'll explain it. Paul said, *"This I say therefore, and solemnly testify in the Lord [that's the source of the information - in the Lord] that you do not live your lives like Gentiles live, in the vanity of their mind [that's the vacuum of their thinking, there's nothing there, the vanity is a vacuum, the Greek word mataiotes is the word vanity, it means an emptiness or a vacuum], they have their understanding darkened [blacked out, the Greek word skotizo which means they can't see or understand what they are doing], they are alienated from the life of God because of ignorance [that's a lack of knowledge] that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart [blindness of their heart is the scar tissue; the word blindness is not the word blind, it's the Greek word porosis and it's a hardness, a hardness of the heart, it's the callousness of the heart, it's the scar tissue over the heart; when you put things into your life that don't belong there they scar you up]; who, being past feelings [when you get to the point where there's no guilt, no shame, no embarrassment, once the scar tissue has become so embedded in your life, you will self-destruct], they give themselves into lasciviousness [that's the lifestyle of lasciviousness], to work all sorts of uncleanness with greed [can't get enough of it, in other words]. You did not learn this from Christ [this is not the lifestyle that the Lord Jesus Christ talked about].* Last week we studied how scar tissue is accumulated on the soul of the believer in the passage that I just gave you. It's living like unbelievers live which is simply rejecting the knowledge found in the Word of God. Without knowledge there is no wisdom and without wisdom there is no discernment and no insight. If there's one thing that Satan would seek to do more than anything else it's to keep you from having any knowledge of the Word of God. Therefore, you don't know your choices. If you don't

know your choices, there's only one road to go down. But if you know your choices, you can choose right or left. **If knowledge is accepted it can become wisdom in the soul of a believer, a Christian, and then that knowledge translates into insight and discernment - wisdom does that. But there's a handicapped life - the lifestyle that is lived from within the cosmic system or the evil perpetuated by Satan. The cosmic system is an illusion, a mirage, since Satan cannot provide the peace and the happiness which the believer acquires from the mind of Christ. So, at best, a handicapped believer or even a nonbeliever can only hope to secure some sort of temporal happiness from the details of life. The cosmic system is Satan's strategy, as the ruler of this world, to control people. It's his policy for the rulership of the world and it deals in two areas. He exploits believers through their own arrogance and then the propaganda and the indoctrination to promote antagonism towards anything related to God. The cosmic system emphasizes arrogance and abnormal preoccupation with self as well as antagonism and intolerance towards the plan, the purpose and the will of God and towards all Christians who want to execute it.** I noticed recently that an NFL football player encouraged people to take a Bible to school and he got all sorts of criticism because he said take a Bible, read your Bible. The world can't stand it. The world can't stand the Word of God. The cosmic system is completely opposed to the Word of God. The cosmic system is evil fueled by the demonology of Satan. It's always necessary for Satan to rule. He's got to produce the cosmic system. He's got to get people to act in regards to arrogance in their own life and divorce them from the reality of God's plan. That starts through antagonism toward the Word of God - if he can get you to do that, then he's got you. There is more antagonism towards the Word of God today in America than you'd care to appreciate - it's horrible. If you stand up in the public arena for the Lord Jesus Christ, or if you are a public figure and you quote the Bible, or you believe the Bible, you are instantly maligned and criticized as a weirdo - it's terrible. Temporal happiness is all the cosmic system offers. It can't offer the peace and the happiness that God offers. The Bible says in Luke 11:28, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it."* **God has designed a lifestyle of happiness for you; not a lifestyle of misery from a series of bad decisions that eventually leave you feeling hopeless and empty and lonely until eventually many people actually take their own life because they see no way out. So, at best, a handicapped believer or even a nonbeliever can only hope to secure some sort of temporal happiness from the details of life.** God set up a system called the divine institutions and within the divine institutions one of the things that God ordained is marriage. It's a divine institution designed for the bearing and raising of children. Marriage is God inspired yes, but without problem-solving devices marriage, at best, becomes a battleground for control of finances or a struggle between two individuals who have a fondness and affection for one another, but they don't have the capacity to love each other when things get crossways. They don't have virtue love. They don't understand impersonal love. The Bible clearly says in Ephesians 5:25, *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her."* It's kind of hard for a nonbeliever to love his wife as Christ loved the church, but if

you are a believer in Jesus Christ, this is a mandate from the Word of God. This is virtue love. This is you loving your wife with impersonal love when the time comes or her loving you with an impersonal love. Without the knowledge of impersonal love (problem-solving device #8), then many marriages find themselves locked in daily conflict. Personal love for God (problem-solving device #7) is your motivational virtue to obey Him. That's why the Bible says in John 14:15 *"If you love Me, you will obey Me"* - that's personal love for God. But impersonal love is a different type of love. It's a love based on your character, not theirs. You can love the unlovable person just like God loved you when you were unlovable. It says, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* (John 3:16). Remember that? You were unlovable at that time, you were not a believer and He still loved you and still sent His Son to die for you and provide your substitute so that you can have salvation. Therefore, the Bible says, *"If any man is in Christ, he's a new creation, old things pass away"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Bible says, *"He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). God's impersonal love is demonstrated on the cross. **Your personal love for God is demonstrated by being obedient.** But if you don't understand impersonal love as a problem-solving device then a marriage finds itself locked in a daily conflict - the conflict of wills. Let's face it, men are self-centered and, by most standards, they do what they want to do when they want to do it. Women, on the other hand, normally are responders; when there's nothing to respond to then trouble and conflict brew. Since God instituted marriage in the Garden of Eden by creating Eve and bringing her to Adam, then that is something that Satan will naturally attack; he will attack the institution of marriage in order to thwart God's divine design. Satan does not endorse marriage. He endorses no marriage. He endorses marriages that are not recognized in the Bible, such as men to men and women to women. The Bible recognizes one man and one woman in a marriage - that's the way God created it. This is one area that Satan seeks to destroy - marriage. He seeks to destroy it by infidelity and mistrust until eventually the couple gets a divorce and can't live together. Some people by the time they are thirty have already been married and divorced a couple of times. Building scar tissue in your soul destroys your ability to feel any remorse or to feel any shame or any guilt since the violator of that is past feelings. If you have scar tissue as the Bible says you are *"past feelings."* I'll read it to you one more time, *"... because of the blindness of their heart, who being past feelings have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work it with greed."* It's a tough situation. Since God instituted marriage - that's His divine design - Satan seeks to destroy marriage. Scar tissue destroys the one area that destroys your ability to feel remorse or shame; *"past feelings,"* having a hard heart, having no guilt or no shame. Once a person gets there - this is the soul in chaos - once shame is gone, once guilt is gone, once the ability to recognize the failure of arrogance is gone, then the person that has that will eventually destroy their lives, and maybe even destroy the lives of others who love them and care about them. I want to ask you a question this morning. Is it possible that you could lie on your tax form and not feel guilty about it? Do you claim that you have a right to not disclose what you earn since the government is stealing from you? Have you

ever had that thought? Have you ever done that? Romans 13:1-2 says, *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinances of God; and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.”* This is where people say the preacher has quit teaching and gone to meddling. I'm not meddling. I'm telling you what the Bible says. Can you cheat on your taxes and not feel guilty about it? If so, you are arrogantly, subjectively rationalizing why it's okay to do that. That's the first stage of arrogance - self-justification. A person in arrogance will always justify why it's okay to do whatever they want to. From self-justification you move into self-deception and from self-deception, self-absorption and eventually self-destruction. If you cheat on your taxes and get caught you are going to be in trouble. You say, 'Well, I haven't been caught yet.' Listen, God knows. He knows exactly what you are doing. You might not have been caught by the government, but God knows every time you make a negative decision. Do you know that's a sin? Christians sin when they cheat on their taxes. So in Matthew 22:21 - I'm just using taxes as an example - but in Matthew 22:21 our Lord echoed these thoughts when He said, *“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and render to God the things that are God's.”* So if a believer or a nonbeliever can lie, steal, deceive, cheat and feel no guilt or no shame when they do that, then they have scar tissue. Have you ever been in line at the store (like maybe at the Walmart or the Target or the Sams or wherever you might shop) and the cashier gave you back the wrong change - not enough? You would say, 'Whoa, wait a minute! I gave you a \$20 and you didn't give me enough change back.' But what if you gave them a \$20 and they gave you change for a \$50? Would you then say, 'Hey wait a minute, you made a mistake. You gave me too much money.' Or would you leave the store feeling lucky because you got away with something? That's an indication that you have scar tissue. Scar tissue or hardness of the heart means you don't feel guilt, you don't feel shame, you don't feel remorse and so you go down the road thinking you got away with something. The heavier the scar tissue in your life, the deeper you will go into eventually criminal arrogance, that is until you get caught. When you get caught and when you get sentenced to prison then you'll feel remorse and you'll feel grief and you'll feel whatever you feel unless you are so arrogantly in self-induced misery that you want to blame the whole world and blame society that caused you to do what you did and it's not that way at all. You are not a victim of the society that you grew up in, you are not. You are not a victim of the circumstances that you faced as a child. You are a victim of your decisions; and bad decisions limit future options. That's why when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we have a whole new room of decisions, a whole new boundary in our life, a whole new plan for our life, a whole new way of living. We don't have to live like we used to live. We live a new life in Christ. We learn to control the flesh. No one is perfect. We all have a sin nature. We all have the opportunity to take control of our sin nature if we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and we become the new man the Bible talks about. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *“If anyone is in Christ [I quoted it already] he's a new creation, old things pass away and all things become new.”* This means that you now

have a soul and a spirit and a body. Prior to believing in Christ, you had a body and a soul but no spirit - you were spiritually dead. But once you believed in Christ, God the Holy Spirit came to indwell your human spirit and you were made spiritually alive. Now you have a body, a soul and a spirit. That's what makes you a new creation - spiritually alive. You were spiritually dead, now you are spiritually alive; so *"the old things pass away, all things become new."* That does not mean that you are never going to sin again. What it does mean is that you have a new weapon now to use against the slavery to the sin nature. What is the weapon? It's God the Holy Spirit and the living Word of God in your soul. Prior to being a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ you did not have these two assets. They are invisible assets and you have them. Prior to that you were a slave to the sins of the flesh, the desires of the flesh. You had no way to break free from that. Now you do have a way to break free. Galatians 5:16-17, *"This I say, walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh."* Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don't. Sometimes you feel like two different people. It depends on which one is controlling your life. **If you allow your sin nature to gain control, then you'll be out of fellowship with God and you need to use problem-solving device #1: the rebound technique where it says, "If we confess our sin, God is faithful and just to forgive us" (1 John 1:9).** If you fail to rebound, as a Christian, as a believer, then you go back to allowing your sin nature to regain control and to be fed by the thoughts of Satan and the cosmic system. There are many believers who have trusted Jesus Christ and accepted Him as their Savior who are now living miserable lives because they do not understand the spiritual life. They got back under control of the flesh, they still live under control of the flesh, they have not broken the control of the flesh, and they are subject to the desires of the flesh. You don't have to live that way. There's a better way to live. In Galatians 5:16, *"Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh."* This means when you sin you stop and confess your sin. When you know you've committed a sin you rebound; not when you go to bed at night, you rebound instantly. The minute you know you committed a sin go to God then and tell Him. I can hear you right now, 'What about the ones I don't remember?' The Bible says, *"He's faithful and just to forgive us of all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9) - even the ones you don't remember. You say, 'That sounds too easy.' Well, it is easy because Christ provided everything necessary to satisfy the justice of God on the cross. Yes, it's easy. What's not easy is growing in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There are two different words I want to introduce you to. One of them is spirituality and the other one is maturity. It is easy to be a spiritual believer, you just are filled with the Spirit. It is not easy to become a mature believer because that's where the Bible says you must *"grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). You must *"study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). It is not easy to have a mature spiritual life because it requires sacrifice on your part to study God's Word, learn God's Word and apply God's Word in your life on a daily basis. It is easy to rebound. It is easy to name your sin to God and get back in fellowship. The

whole reason for being in fellowship is so that you can advance spiritually in the plan of God. You see, once we accept Christ as our Savior, God the Holy Spirit indwells us. Ephesians 1:13, *“Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”* The weapon that the Holy Spirit uses is the Scripture. The Scripture is the knowledge of God's mind. It is the knowledge of the Word of God converted into wisdom that gives you the advantage to have discernment and insight in regards to the traps of Satan and the lure of the flesh. Satan has a strategy towards you. He knows your weaknesses. The Bible says you are to put on the armor of God and stand against the strategy of Satan in Ephesians 6. We must know his strategy. Paul talks about that as well. We must know the strategy of Satan. I can tell you what it is. It's to work on your area of weakness. Whatever your area of weakness is in the flesh, it may be lust for money, lust for power, lust for attention, lust for drugs, lust for alcohol, lust for sex, lust for a lot of different things and this is where he will hit you the hardest. So you have to understand how to overcome that. How to recognize that. If you don't have discernment and insight, you will not even know when you are being tricked. You won't even be aware of how Satan will trick you. James talks about this. Every decision that you make in your life must be based on information. Your volition acts on that information. Here's the trick to this thing, the cosmic system offers false information. The cosmic system offers information that's not true. The Scriptures, the Bible offers God's information. One is designed to provide a wonderful life and one is designed to enslave you and ultimately destroy you. What has God designed for you? Jeremiah 29:11, *“For I know the thoughts that I have toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil to give you a future and a hope.”* What does Satan have in mind for you? Listen to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, *“Satan was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. He's a liar, and the father of it”* (John 8:44). If you fall for his cosmic system influence, you fall for the lie. He's a liar. He can't provide you what he says he can. He can't provide you the happiness and the peace and the longevity of life that God can. But until you get in fellowship and until you grow spiritually and become the person that God intended for you to be, you are never going to know that and you are never going to understand that. You have to make a choice. Do I want to grow up and be the person God wanted me to be or am I happy just tooling along in life getting by? Are you a conventional Christian that just shows up to church on Sunday and goes home? You think, ‘Okay I did my chore. I went to church Sunday.’ But you got nothing, you weren't fed, you weren't encouraged, you heard a little music, you gave an offering, you heard about the Sunday school attendance and a 15-minute sermon and you were out of there until next Sunday. We call that the nod to God crowd. That's not the spiritual life. That is not it at all. If you have listened to me long enough you know what it is, you know what I'm encouraging you to do - to begin a daily routine of studying God's Word on a consistent basis, even if it has to be in your own home. Please listen to me. Be the person God designed you to be and stop being sucked into the lies of the cosmic system. I hope next week you'll come back. I hope you'll continue to listen. Contact me if you have any questions. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Slow Learners

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 735 aired on September 22, 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 hang around, stick with me, 30-minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and no manipulation. That's right, no con games, no hustling for money, not asking you to join up, fess up, give it up, just asking you to listen up. Listen as I try to explain how the Word of God works for you, so I can verify and identify the plan of God for you. If I can do that then you can orient and adjust to the plan yourself. It's up to you. In the end you are responsible for your life, your decisions, every decision you make - you must take responsibility for them. You have to understand what is out there and how we're supposed to do this thing called human living. I want to go to a passage today in the book of Hebrews. I'd like to share something with you that I think is pretty interesting. When I'm traveling around the country I meet a lot of people. The people that I meet, some are hungry and some are not. I met a man yesterday who had learned about this show and he was listening to every one he could get his hands on. He had a hunger for growth. He wanted to grow rapidly. He is a 70-year-old man and he said, 'I wasted so many years not really growing, not really understanding what God's plan for my life is.' A lot of people in churches that I might speak in have no real hunger. They're just not hungry to learn God's Word. I'm not able to spark an interest. Even though I may say something they've never heard before, put it in a way they've never heard it put before, they just don't respond. They just don't have an interest in growing and learning the Word of God. One of the reasons that I do this radio show is to look for those of you that have an interest, those of you that are hungry for truth. The Bible says, "*When knowledge becomes pleasant to your soul and wisdom enters your heart, then you have discernment and you have insight*" (Proverbs 2). If knowledge is pleasant, that means you enjoy learning, you enjoy growing spiritually. What I'm looking for are people that want to grow spiritually, people that identify with what I'm saying. People that say, for example, 'This is neat. I've never heard it put that way before. How can I learn more? How can I get more information? How can I apply it into my life?' So many of you have done that over the fourteen years that we've been on the radio and there are others listening to me right now that don't know how to do it or how to say it. You can always write to us, it's just simply rickhughesministries.org. You'll find our website there and you can communicate through the website or you can simply email me at rick@rickhughesministries.org. The passage I want to share with you today comes from Hebrews and whoever wrote it, whether it was Paul we don't really know - the writer doesn't identify himself, but he talks about slow learners of the Scriptures. Here is what he said, he's writing and he says, "*Of whom we have many things to say, and they are hard to be uttered, since you are dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need that someone teach you again what are the first principles of the oracles of God, and you have become such as one who needs milk and not strong meat. For everyone who drinks only milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, he is still a baby. But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age,*

even to those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:11-14). This is something that you might get tricked up on, the difference between good and evil. That's a great Biblical question. The writer is writing to people that have been saved for a while, people that should be able to teach the basics to other people, people that should be able to explain different Biblical doctrines or different Biblical rationales and they don't know how, even though they may have been saved a long time. The writer said, “*you ought to be a teacher but now someone has to come back and teach you again the basics of the oracles of God.*” He goes on to describe them as milk drinkers - they couldn't have a steak, they had to have milk. He would like to feed them a steak. Getting a steak is that wonderful way of studying the Word of God in depth. My pastor usually teaches for an hour solid without quitting; if it's a conference, it's an hour and a half without stopping. And if I'm speaking, usually I'll speak for an hour without stopping. Most people are not used to that length of sermons. We're not ranting and raving and yelling and screaming we're just teaching the Word of God. Most people tune out after about ten or fifteen minutes, especially on Sunday morning. In my day-to-day experience I meet many believers who are not really hungry. Not hungry to grow spiritually. Knowledge is not pleasant to their soul. They don't yearn for knowledge. They don't even sense the meaning of growing spiritually. That term is alien to them. They are faithful people, yes, they are; there is no doubt they are believers in Jesus Christ. They attend church and they even give, but as far as understanding the spiritual life and the demands the spiritual life puts on us, they know very little. That's exactly the problem here. The writer in Hebrew says, you don't know anything, you ought to be teaching other people, but you don't know it, so I have to give you milk. They know not to sin; people know not to sin. But they don't really understand how the mechanics work in the Christian life. They know if they sin they should ask for forgiveness. Yes, they know that, but they don't really understand what that does or how the spiritual life as a whole operates. In some instances, **what is pitiful is that the rate of forgetting has exceeded the rate of learning.** They forgot more than they've learned. This is important. When you are born physically you have to grow. We have to have food for energy, food for growth and without food for energy the newborn person would be malnourished and eventually die. We have to ask ourself this question. Am I growing spiritually? Not physically. I know we're all growing physically. But are we growing spiritually? Do you know more today about your new life in Christ than you did last year? **You are commanded to grow spiritually. In 2 Peter 3:18, the Bible says, “Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”** Grow is a mandate, not a request, to grow spiritually. “*Grow in the grace [charis] and in the knowledge [epignosis] of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” So, connection to the Lord is the key to growth. That's what you have to understand. In 2 Peter 3:18 it's really a key, and it simply means this. You have to understand who the Lord Jesus Christ is and what the Lord Jesus Christ has done and what the Lord Jesus Christ continues to do for you on a daily basis. The only way you can ever do that requires a Bible and a teacher since all the Lord has done and all He continues to do is written for our advantage in the Scripture, in the Bible. Why did I say that this requires a Bible and a teacher?

Because the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher is what the Holy Spirit uses to enlighten you. Eventually all of us have to get under a well-qualified pastor. If you don't, you are not going to figure this thing out on your own. If you aren't under a well-qualified pastor, you are probably not looking for one to start with because knowledge is not pleasant to your soul. It's an interruption to your routine. You don't have time to pursue it. Listen to Ephesians 4:11-16, "*And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints [that's for you and I, for us to be perfect, to be like Christ, for us to assimilate His thinking, His lifestyle] for the work of the ministry, [so we can replicate what the Lord Jesus Christ did and we can represent His ministry and His life to others] for the edifying of the body of Christ; [so that we can all be built up together, become mature believers together] until we all come in the unity of the faith [we all get on the same page, by the same pastor who's got it squared away] understanding the unity of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. [that's the objective of the pastor - to teach God's Word] So that we be henceforth no more children, tossed to an fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, we may grow up into Him [the Lord Jesus Christ] in whom all things, which is the head, even Christ, from whom the body is joined together compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body into the edifying of itself in love.*"

That's a lot of Scripture I just read. I'm sitting here and thinking I probably just lost you right there! This is why we have pastor-teachers. God gave men the gift (some men have the gift of evangelism - that's my gift - some men have the gift of pastor-teacher; the gifts of apostle and prophet no longer operate today; apostles were those who have seen the Lord Jesus Christ; and prophets, a different gift, we have the canon of Scripture today, the completed Bible, we don't need a prophet, it's all right here) of evangelist and pastor-teacher so the saints can grow up, so the ministry can continue, so the body of Christ can be edified. This is directly related to you. You have to understand this. **Until you get under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor, you are never really going to grow up.** You will learn some things, you'll pick up some stuff on your own if you read the Bible. But as a guy told me the other day, 'I read through the Bible twice in my lifetime but I never knew what I was reading or even understood it.' Yet when he got under a well-qualified pastor, it became alive to him. All of a sudden the dots started being connected. Reading the Bible alone by yourself is like trying to put together a jigsaw puzzle with some of the pieces missing. Until you get that man that can teach you what God's Word says, you are never going to be able to put the puzzle together. Once you find that pastor, once you get under that man who has that ability to delineate the Word of God to you then your spiritual life will take off like a rocket. **The objective of spiritual growth is for you to become more and more like Jesus Christ. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, God the Holy Spirit comes to indwell us and live in us and begins the process of making us more like Him, conforming us to His image.** That's why we have problem-solving device #1: rebound. If you quench the

Holy Spirit by sin and grieve the Holy Spirit by not rebounding your sin, then obviously you can't grow spiritually. **If you are going to grow spiritually it takes three things: the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the living Word of God, and a well-qualified pastor to teach it to you.** The Bible is a textbook, not a novel. In 2 Timothy 2:15 it says, "*study to show yourself approved unto God*" - that means study the text. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 it says don't be surprised if you are tested, everybody gets tested, and you have to pass those tests. You have to grow to be spiritually mature and pass the tests that God puts you under to see if you've learned how to apply that doctrine to your life. The whole objective of you growing spiritually is you becoming more like Jesus Christ. It's thinking like Christ. It is assimilating the divine viewpoint. It all starts with the transformation on the inside. Romans 12:3 talks about renovating your thinking, it says "*Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, but think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word.*" **The Christian life is lived in your mind. It's lived where you think. Your soul has mentality. Your soul has volition. What you think and what you do has tremendous impact on your life. If you don't think right you can't do right.** Satan is in the deceiving business. He loves to deceive you and to get you to believe the lie, to get you to think off course or not think at all. That's even better. Just operate on your emotions and go through life not really thinking. That's not learning the Word of God. Learning the Word of God starts with an inside transformation. Philippians 2:5 says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" It means you must learn to think like He thought or you have to learn to think divine viewpoint. Thinking divine viewpoint is the key because the cosmic system has a way of thinking called evil. Evil is the genius of Satan and it is the mainstay of the cosmic system. Evil takes grace and distorts it just a little bit. You won't even be able to tell it's evil. It may sound good, look good, smell good, but it's evil. Something like this, in regard to salvation. The Bible says, "*for by grace are you saved through faith; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest anyone shouldn't brag about it*" (Ephesians 2:8-9). But evil says, for by grace you are saved through faith and give up drinking Coca-Cola's and then you can be saved. No, it's not giving up anything. The neat thing about what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did on that cross is, He paid for all of our sins. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "*He that knew no sin was made sin for us,*" - He paid for them. He was judged in our place. We cannot approbate God by quitting sinning. Our sins were paid for. What turns God on is when you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible is clear about that, "*He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life, and he that believes not, the wrath of God abides on him already*" (John 3:36). You want to please God? Jesus said, "*This is the will of the One that sent Me that you believe in Me whom you sent*" (John 6:39). Until you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed Son of God, the Messiah, you're not saved. It is faith alone in Christ alone. It's not, I believe it and I quit drinking, I believe it and I started going to church. Then if you fall off the wagon, then I'm not saved anymore I went back to drinking or I quit going to church so now I'm not saved anymore. It doesn't work like that. Once you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are born spiritually - spiritually reborn. "*If any man is in Christ he is a new creation,*

old things are passed away, all things become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17) - a spiritual birth. When you have a spiritual birth, you're not going to have a spiritual unbirth and then have to be born again two or three times in your lifetime. No, one time is enough. *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved"* (Acts 16:31) Paul told the Roman jailer. **Then once you get saved, what's next? Changing the way you think. Learning divine viewpoint.** Staying out of the cosmic system. Not buying in to the lies of evil, which is the genius of Satan. Why do you think our Lord appointed those disciples, fishermen and a tax collector as apostles? They were to record His actions and His thoughts as well as record what happened for our edification so we can learn how we can handle situations the same way. The Holy Spirit took these men and took the information they learned from the Lord Jesus Christ and helped them to put it in print. That Word of God in print is called the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:13 tells us we have the mind of Christ, it is the New Testament, it is the Bible - there it is for you. They never thought they would be writing Scripture. In a million years they couldn't of thought they were writing a Bible. They didn't think like that. They wrote letters to churches and to other believers and that became Scripture. In those letters they reproduced the thinking of Christ. They told people what Christ did, how He did it, how He handled situations as a reference for you so you know how to do the same thing. But distractions are a weapon of the enemy, a.k.a. the devil. He uses our distractions and he can encourage your defeat. That means you never reach spiritual maturity. You never bring maximum glorification to God because you are just too busy to pay attention, too busy doing stuff, and your spiritual growth never took place. If you've been a Christian fifteen, twenty, thirty years, I could ask you just a few questions. How well do you know the Word of God? Could you tell me the essence of God? Could you explain dispensations to me? Do you know what it means to be a spiritually mature believer? Do you know the difference between spirituality and maturity? Do you know that? I could go on and on with questions. Yet you go to church, you assemble yourself, you listen, you go home and feel good about yourself because you went to church today and you payed tribute to God. That's when church becomes a ritual and not a reality because you're too busy doing other things. Defeat means you never reach spiritual maturity, you never bring maximum glorification of God. You're just too busy to pay attention. Your little bit of church made you feel good about yourself and it became ritual without reality. Just an exercise in going to a Christian community, and you might call it worshiping, but is not even close to true worship. Yes, you honored God by going and attending on Sunday and going to Sunday school, but what did you learn in regards to advancing in your spiritual life? God is looking for a few well-qualified believers, those who can stand in the gap. Believers who can represent Him accurately. This stuff about playing church doesn't cut it with the Lord. When we teach the plan of God on the FLOT Line, when we lay out those ten problem-solving devices, these are exactly the same steps the Lord used when He walked on this earth; except He never had to confess His sins as we do, and He never had to be occupied with Christ as we do. He didn't use problem-solving device #1 and problem-solving device #10, but He used problem-solving devices #2-9. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. He did operate under the faith-rest drill.

He did use grace orientation. He did use Biblical orientation. He did have a personal sense of destiny. He did have personal love for His Father. He did have impersonal love for all mankind; that's why He went to the cross. He did share in the happiness of God. Yes, and He told you how to share the happiness of God as well. He said, "*Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's word and keep it*" (Luke 11:28). Learning these ten problem-solving devices and using them in your life long process is what will shape you into thinking divine viewpoint and give you the maximum glorification of God in your life so that when you get before God in heaven (it's going to happen someday whether you like it or not) you want to hear 'Well done My good and My faithful servant.' You don't want a pat on the back, an attaboy, glad you made it, see you in a few thousand years. Sure you'll be in heaven but there's no reward, there is no rejoicing. You're there, you got eternal life, but you showed up late for the game, you didn't do your job. That's the bottom line. This cannot be done apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit, and it cannot be done apart from the consistent intake of the Word of God metabolized into spiritual momentum in your life. You can never grow spiritually without that. So the eventual outcome is that your happiness is guaranteed by our Lord and it's reflected in the way you think as well as the way you represent your lifestyle to those around you. Or you can continue to play church, play Christian, continue to be a caricature of Christ. You're saved, yep; serving, nope. You don't even recognize what your spiritual gift is or how to use it yet. How could you be satisfied with that? I was on the Internet the other day at a place called gotquestions.org and saw this, I thought it was a good statement, so I'm going to read it you.

"When the transformation of salvation takes place, spiritual growth begins. The Holy Spirit indwells us (John 14:16-17). We are new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). The old, sinful nature begins to give way to the new, Christlike nature (Romans 6-7). Spiritual growth is a lifelong process that depends on our study and application of God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and our walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16). As we seek spiritual growth, we should pray to God and ask for wisdom concerning the areas that He desires us to grow in. We can ask God to increase our faith and our knowledge of Him. God desires for us to grow spiritually, and He has given us all we need to experience spiritual growth. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can overcome sin and steadily become more like our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

I didn't say that, they said that, but it's the exact same thing I'm telling you. Are you ready to start growing spiritually? Are you ready to be the man or the woman that God designed you to be? Then let's do it together. Let's get with the program. Stay filled with the Holy Spirit, get under a well-qualified pastor, take in God's Word every day and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Power of the Gospel

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 736 aired on September 29, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes you have an invitation to hang around and listen for a little bit, no manipulation here. We just want to give you some information that will help you verify as well as identify God's plan for your life so you can orient and adjust to the plan if you would like to. This show is different than a lot of radio shows you hear because we have no hidden agendas. Our agenda is simply to give you the truth. God gave you two ends; one end to sit with and one end to think with. Success in your life depends on which one of those ends you use; heads you win, tails you lose. Stick with me, learn what the FLOT Line is - it's ten unique problem-solving devices. When you learn these and you apply them in your life, you can stop the outside source of adversity before it becomes an inside source of stress. **Stress is your choice. Adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. Normally stress is what you do to yourself. Adversity is what circumstances do to you.** It is possible to live a phenomenal life with no fear, no worry, no bitterness, no jealousy. It is possible to live a life like this, called the Christian life and it is found in Christ Jesus. It's a new way of thinking and that's why the Bible says we have to renovate our thinking in Romans 12:1-3, especially verse three where it says *"stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, but think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word."* What is that standard of thinking from His Word? Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus who humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation."* The key to living the Christian life is humility because without humility there is no teachability and without teachability then there is no wisdom. There has to be a quest for knowledge and knowledge must be pleasant to your soul. We don't run into many people that are hungry for knowledge. Most people are satisfied to go through the ritual without reality in the Sunday morning worship service. For those of you that are hungry, that really want to know more, that have a hunger for the Word of God, this is where it starts - getting under a well-qualified pastor who can teach you the Bible. I'm not that man. I'm simply an evangelist that has a radio show, but I can point you in the right direction. I hope I can expose you to enough teaching where it will ignite a hunger in your life where you will want to go forward and grow. Today I want to talk to you about the power in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. If I told you that you could start your life all over again today, in other words, today could be zero number one day in your new life, that you could sort of have a divine reboot - would that interest you at all? Well, there is actually a way to do that very thing. Yes, it is possible to reboot your life. The Lord Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God proclaimed to Nicodemus, a religious Pharisee, that in order to gain entrance into the kingdom he would have to be born again. There would have to be a reboot in his life. In John 3:3 Jesus said these words, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* What is born again? You've been born once, you came from your mom's womb. You were born physically, but physical birth runs out, physical birth ends. There's not hardly a week goes by that one of my friends hasn't

passed away or a celebrity hasn't passed away, or someone you know hasn't passed away. This is indicative and proof of the fact that life ends - physical life, but not spiritual life. If you want to inherit the kingdom of God, if you want to live forever, you must be born again. A statement like this was foreign to someone with a religious background like Nicodemus because he always assumed that he would be granted entrance based on his racial profile and keeping the law of Moses. But Jesus said to him in John 3:5, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."* Born of water, that's the natural birth; a woman's water must burst before the baby can come forward. Born of the Spirit, that's the spiritual birth, that's the second birth. You're born into this world with a body and a soul but a dead human spirit. Spiritually dead, separated from God because of Adam's original sin imputed to you. 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) and *"the wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23). **We are all born spiritually dead, but we can all be made spiritually alive in Christ when we receive Him as our Savior.** Of course Nicodemus was taken back with this statement that Jesus Christ made. His answer was, *"How can these things be? And the Lord said, 'I'm surprised that you, being a Pharisee, don't know the answer to these things'"* (John 3:9-10). The answer is in the power of the Gospel which is the Good News of God. The Good News of God's plan for you. We have that Good News in print. It's in the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, it's recorded and revealed how God's plan works. Nicodemus heard it from Jesus Christ face-to-face. We have it provided and protected by means of the Scripture, the Bible. The verse you know, you've heard it since you were a child, John 3:16, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."* This is the most important statement ever made to fallen mankind. **Jesus Christ, the Son of God, His work on the cross provided redemption for our sin.** That's great news since we couldn't pay for it ourselves. Nothing that we can do would ever satisfy the justice of God. Only the sacrifice of a perfect lamb, the lamb without spot and without blemish who took away the sin of the world. Jesus Christ did that. That's great news. Paul wrote in Romans 1:16 these words, *"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it [the Gospel of Christ] is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes, [believe plus nothing else, just believe]..."* That's why the Bible says, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved"* (Acts 16:31). Man has to add stipulations to it; he'll tell you you can't be saved if you're not baptized, if you smoke and drink, if you dance, and all kinds of weird stuff. The Bible says, *"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."* Romans 1:16, *"I'm not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, that's the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believe the things I said, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* The Gospel of Christ. If we go into the New Testament in the day in which it was written (remember, it wasn't written in English), the inspired Word of God is the original manuscripts which have been lost. We don't have the original manuscripts but we have copies of the original manuscripts and those copies are accurate. **The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto the salvation. The Gospel of Christ**

is the proclamation of the grace of God through Jesus Christ. “As the messianic rank of Jesus was proved by His words, His deeds, and His death, the narrative of the sayings, deeds, and death of Jesus Christ came to be called the gospel or glad tidings” (Bible Dictionary). This is good news for all who hear it. The gospel “comprises the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ as having suffered death on the cross to procure eternal salvation for the men in the kingdom of God, but as restored to life and exalted to the right hand of God in heaven, thence to return in majesty to consummate the kingdom of God; so that it may be more briefly defined as the glad tidings of salvation through Christ; the proclamation of the grace of God manifest and pledged in Christ; the gospel” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon). Mark 16:15, “*And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’*” Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:18, “*What is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may make the Gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.*” Paul never charged anybody for the Gospel message. It is completely out of line for any preacher, any evangelist, any pastor to charge for the Word of God. That is wrong, out of line completely. In my opinion, we don't even take offerings. If you are going to have a revival and you want to bring lost people to hear the Gospel - the life-changing message of Jesus Christ - don't take an offering. Why put an offering plate in front of them? Thinking they can assuage their guilt complex by putting \$10, \$20 or \$30 in the offering. No, forget it, it is not about the offering. It's about the Gospel. “*Go into the world and preach the Gospel,*” that’s what the Lord Jesus Christ said. And Paul said it, “*I will not abuse my power of the Gospel.*” Since the Gospel, the Good News, the Word of God, is the power of God, anyone who handles it, anyone who touches it, anyone of us that talk about it - we must be held accountable and careful not to misrepresent the message. If I misrepresent the Gospel, God will hold me accountable. I can't tell you something that's wrong and get away with it. It happens every day because Satan has his own emissaries, he has his own preachers, he has his own doctrine. There are men in the pulpit that are not even saved today, and they will preach another Gospel, a social Gospel. That’s not the Gospel of Christ. That's not the forgiveness of sin. That's not the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. That’s not the eternal kingdom. It’s not that at all. Since the Gospel is the power of God it must be carefully handled. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 2:4, “*but as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men but pleasing God, who tries our convictions [checks out our motivation].*” We were put in trust with the Gospel. What an amazing statement. God does that for you also. He put you in trust of the Gospel if you understand it, if you know it. There's nothing wrong with you asking your best friend a simple question. ‘If you died today would you go to heaven?’ Or maybe you could say, ‘Do you want to go to heaven? Do you know how to go to heaven?’ There's nothing wrong with asking that question. That's not an invasion of someone's privacy. You hold the key to changing a life radically by one simple decision they make. Whenever your friends or your family members make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ they are, like Nicodemus, born again. Born into a new life. Born into a new kingdom. Born into a new future. **That’s the most critical thing we can do - give the Gospel to our**

friends and our family and those that we know. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:13, *“In whom, you also trusted [that’s you and me] after we heard the words of truth [we responded to it], the Gospel of our salvation, in whom also, after we believed it then we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”* So two things have to happen: someone has to hear it, and someone has to believe it. Then God seals them with the Holy Spirit. He locks them in and they're not ever going to lose that salvation. Jesus said, *“I will never leave you, I will never forsake you”* (Hebrews 13:5). *“I give to them eternal life, and they will never perish, neither shall any man ever pluck them out of My Father's hand.”* (John 10:28). What an amazing statement. Someone has to hear it and someone has to believe it, and you are the messenger. You and I are the ones that must give the message. We have been put in trust with the Gospel. We understand what it meant when He went to the cross and paid for our sin. We understand how the barrier between God and man was removed. We understand that it is faith alone in Christ alone as the Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9, *“For by grace are you saved through faith; it’s a gift from God, not of works lest any man would brag about it.”* The Gospel must be heard and the Gospel must be believed and then it produces a new man in Christ. If there's anything that Satan does, it’s to pervert the Gospel. It’s to get you not to talk about the Gospel, even though you have the most powerful thing in the world at your fingertips - the power of God is in the Gospel. Those words can change a man's life and destiny forever. When you explain to him the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross and how He paid the penalty for his sin, if that man you explained it to believes it, and receives Christ as his Savior, he has eternal life. His life is changed forever because of the power of the words that you gave him. You have more power than an atomic bomb. We can develop military weapons that kill the enemy, but we can't save people. Only God can do that. And you have the weapon that saves people - it’s called the Gospel, the Good News of the life, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God. When we believe the Gospel we become one with the Lord Jesus Christ. In 2 Thessalonians 2:14, *“It was for this He called you by our gospel, [Paul said] to the obtaining of the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.”* There is glory awaiting you in eternity and there's glory now. To be able to live and experience God's plan in time is a glorious thing. When we believe the Gospel we become one with Christ, we share His inheritance and we share His glory. It is amazing. I want to give you an illustration of the power of the Gospel. I’ll show you how God works across the generations and how it's an amazing thing when we believe the Gospel. I want to give you the story of Edward Kimball. I know you have never heard of Edward Kimball, I had not either until recently as I was researching this message. I read that he was a Sunday school teacher who prayed for the boys in his class; he sought to lead each one of those boys to Christ.

“One young man, in particular, didn’t seem to understand what the gospel was about so Kimball went to the shoe store where he was stocking shelves and confronted him in the stock room with the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That young man was Dwight L. Moody. In the stockroom on that Saturday, he believed the gospel and received Jesus Christ as his Savior. In his lifetime, Moody touched thousands in two continents for God, professing Christ through his ministry.”

They believed in the Lord Jesus Christ through the Gospel message God entrusted to him.

“But the story doesn’t end there. Actually that’s where it begins. Under Moody, another man’s heart was touched for God, Wilbur Chapman. Chapman became another evangelist who preached to thousands. One day, a professional ball player had a day off and attended one of Chapman’s meetings, and thus, Billy Sunday was converted. Sunday quit baseball and became part of Chapman’s team. Then Chapman became a pastor of a large church and Sunday began his own evangelistic crusades.”

That’s really amazing. But that’s not the end of the story. The thread continues.

“Another young man was converted whose name was Mordecai Ham. He was a scholarly, dignified gentleman who wasn’t above renting a hearse and parading it through the streets advertising his meetings. When Ham came to Charlotte, North Carolina, a sandy-haired, lanky young man, then in high school, vowed that he wouldn’t go hear him preach, but Billy Frank, as he was called by his family, did eventually go. Ham announced that he knew for a fact that a house of ill repute was located across the street from the local high school and that male students were skipping lunch to visit the house across the street. When students decided to go to interrupt the meetings of Mordecai Ham, Billy Frank decided to go see what would happen. That night Billy Frank went and was intrigued by what he heard. Returning another night, he responded to the invitation and was converted.”

Here’s the the power of the Gospel.

“Billy Frank eventually became known as Billy Graham, the evangelist who preached to more people than any other person who ever lived, including the Apostle Paul.”

It’s not hard to find celebrities, people that know who Jesus Christ is, but where it goes from there sometimes is another story because many never learn God’s plan after salvation - what’s next. The Gospel is the door that enters you into the plan of God. But there’s more. It’s not just believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved - yes, that is all it takes to be saved - but as a saved person, as a redeemed person, as a believer in Jesus Christ, the Bible says we are to grow up in Christ. We are to “*study to show ourselves approved in the God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth*” (2 Timothy 2:15). We are told in the Bible to “*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 3:18). There are many celebrities who have trusted Christ; people you may know, like Chris Pratt. “After sharing his faith in a September 2018 interview with the Associated Press, Chris Pratt’s messages of faith were more clear in his social media posts. Regarding his fiancée, Katherine Schwarzenegger, he has said both, ‘Thrilled that God put you in my life’ and ‘Proud to live boldly in faith with you.’” Faith - there’s a singer named Faith Hill, I’ll bet that you’ve heard of her. She’s a devoted Christian and she says, “Having a backbone of spirituality makes me a little stronger. I pray a lot, and when I first moved to Nashville, that’s what kept me alive. I believed that I was being taken care of. I apply it to my life every day. It’s how I’ve always looked at things.” Celebrities like: Chris Pratt, Faith Hill, Tyler Perry, Chuck Norris, Carrie Underwood, Mr. T, Johnny Cash, Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks, Denzel Washington even the great Tim

Tebow - all have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and all have seen the power of the Gospel in their lives. It's amazing the story goes on and on from John Rockefeller to Adolph Coors IV in his testimony, how he got saved. It's just amazing. Man can build fantastic weapons of war designed to kill and destroy, but only the Gospel, as I told you, only the Gospel message can transform and change a living human being. Why, you may ask, why can it do that? The Bible says clearly, *"If any man is in Christ, he's a new creature; old things pass away; and all things become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). That's the new birth. That's the new life. That's the power of the Gospel. When you believe the Lord Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection, when you put your faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross and say, 'Father I believe and I would like to receive Christ as my Savior.' A simple prayer changes your destiny, changes your life. You won't feel it. You may not even sense it, but it works because God said it, *"Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Romans 10:13). That means we become a new racial species. Once we receive Christ, we are placed into God's royal family and we are made an heir to all that Christ is heir to. Paul wrote in Galatians 4:7, *"Therefore you are no longer a servant in bondage to sin, but a son; and if now a son, then an heir of God through Christ Jesus."* We've been made justified, acceptable to God by grace when the perfect righteousness of Christ was imputed to us. Faith alone in Christ alone. *"For He has made Him,"* 2 Corinthians 5:21, *"the One who knew no sin to be sin for us, in order that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him."* A new species, that's us, a new lifestyle. Living by faith, learning God's protocol plan and fulfilling our spiritual gifts. A conversion to Christ does not delete your volition. You still face temptation. You still face testing on a daily basis. You are a product of your decisions, beginning with the first decision, the best decision, the most wonderful decision, the decision to receive Christ as your Savior. But amazingly, your conversion gives you two supernatural elements to combat the devil's world which you just came out of. You have the supernatural power of God the Holy Spirit and you have the supernatural power of the living Word of God. It's in the Word of God that the plan unfolds and it is the Holy Spirit that gives you the understanding and helps in the application - but you still must decide. Do I want to learn it? Do I want to fulfill His plan for me? Is your life so full of distractions you have no time to grow daily? Even a new infant has to grow up, and we as believers must grow up. We must grow in Christ Jesus. We must use our volition to grow because the Bible says, *"Happiness belongs to the man who finds wisdom, and the man who finds understanding"* (Proverbs 3:13). That's in the plan of God, understanding the protocol plan of God, the direction that you must be going once you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. I'm so happy to give you this message. It's my prayer you've listened closely and if you've never made a decision to receive Christ as your Savior, you will do it today. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

God's Timing - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 737 aired on October 6, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I would like to invite you to stick around, it will be about 30-minutes of motivation, inspiration, education but no manipulation. We don't try to con anyone, we're not trying to hustle money, not trying to solicit membership. Just trying to give you some accurate information. This show is designed to remind you of Biblical truths and hopefully to introduce you to a new way of studying and learning the Word of God. God gave us two ends: one to think with and one to sit on. Success in life depends on which one you use; heads you win, tails you lose. Bad decisions limit future options. Speaking of bad decisions, there is a potential for everyone of us to make dumb decisions every day but stupid decisions hurt people. Bad decisions limit future options and stupid decisions get people hurt. We have to learn to think for ourselves and not live off our emotions - that's the worst way to live - emotional revolt of the soul, letting your emotions control your soul. God gave you emotions for sure, but they're not designed to run the ship; they're designed to appreciate what's out there. You have to learn to think for yourself. You have to learn to control your thoughts. The Bible teaches, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5) and says, *"Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think; but think in terms of sanity as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word"* (Romans 12:3). It's imperative that, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we think right, we get our minds right. The book of Ecclesiastes talks about thinking - how we think, and how we orient and adjust to time. I'd like to read to you something this morning out of the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, *"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven, a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which has been planted. A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to cast stones and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. A time to search and a time to give up as lost; a time to keep and a time to cast away. A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; a time to keep silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace."* That was eight verses from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. It may be a bit confusing, but let me give you the breakdown. This passage deals with God's timing for all events on this planet. Some of the things you are going to have to act upon and some of them you have no control over. The bottom line is that nothing stays the same forever. You've learned that, you've seen that in your life. We've all had people that we loved and appreciated that were neighbors or friends and they moved off and left us, things change and it's not the same anymore. Things change. They don't stay the same forever. Particularly in politics things change. Change is inevitable. Sometimes you and I might not necessarily like it, but it happens. Each event mentioned in this particular passage has been predetermined in God's plan. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, *"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heavens."* Ecclesiastes 3:14, *"I know that everything God does will*

remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there's nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him." Here are a couple of principles that we can conclude from this passage. **Uncontrollable circumstances in our lives are often a way that God directs us. If you have no control over it and something happened that brought about a tremendous change, God is directing you in a different direction, He's showing you something.** The question is, can you figure out what He is showing you? If you get emotional, you'll quit thinking and you'll just react and get bitter. Another principle is sometimes we get out of step with life, but God has not forgotten us. He knows where we are. He knows what we're doing. "There's no doubt that when Solomon wrote this he was a literary genius. His poetic comparison of fourteen opposites is amazing, but through it all here is what he appears to be saying. He affirms that all of our activities, both good and bad, and all of our responses to people, objects, events, happen in their own time." That's some of the commentary from Walvoord and Zuck in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament*. That's the way they see it. All the events that Solomon mentioned in this section are allowed by God for all men. Even a time for injustice and a time for oppression, all are part of God's immutable and eternal plan indicating that man's toil and man's labor are for naught. This is not some sort of fatalism or deism, saying God's unconcerned with events in the world. You and I both know that He does intervene in events in this world. It's simply the proof of what man can expect in this world. The great news is God's redemption through Jesus Christ for each one of us. It's at this junction in our life that our life can take on purpose and direction. That's a wonderful thing. So the first thing that Solomon mentions is the beginning and the ending of a person's life. That's the very first thing he mentions. *"There's a time to be born and a time to die."* Nobody can expect anything until they are born. This is how we all come into this world. We come in through parents who, through God's natural order, copulate and conceive just as Adam and Eve, our first parents, did. In order for there to be a birth there must be a man and a woman. God designed it that way. Any two individuals could be a parent, but only a man and a woman can bring life into this world. No matter what a person may claim, it's only through a man and a woman that life is created and only through God the soul is given to that life. The Bible says, *"There's a time to be born."* People have birthdays. Every day of the year somebody is having a birthday. It's a time to be born. A new baby comes forth, but that baby that comes forth is born physically alive and spiritually dead. That doesn't mean the baby committed a sin, it means the baby is born into the human race spiritually dead. The newborn baby has a body and a living soul, but a dead human spirit because Adam's original sin was imputed at birth. Romans 5:12, *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, thus death has now spread to all men, for all have sinned."* This is the very reason that Jesus Christ came - that is, to redeem us out of this sin infested world. When we receive Christ as Savior, when we believe in the finished work of Christ on the cross, when we put our faith alone in Christ alone, we are redeemed. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:24, *"who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we [you and I] having died to sin might live for righteousness; by whose stripes we*

were healed.” The sacrifice of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, satisfied the justice of God, thus anyone who is in Christ - anyone who's put their faith in Christ - has Christ's righteousness and is now able to be acceptable before God's justice. The justice of God judged Christ instead of us. The justice of God poured out upon Him the punishment, not you. By being in Christ, you are now part of God's family. So there's a time to be born and there is a time to die. There is a time to be born once and there's a time to be born twice. You are either going to be born once and die twice or you are going to be born twice and die once. That might not make sense to you. The first birth is your physical birth, the second birth is your spiritual birth. The first death - *it's appointed unto man once to die* (we'll see that here in just a minute), but the second death is being cast in the Lake of Fire - the Bible says this is the second death. If you are only born once (physically), you are going to have two deaths: physical death and cast in the Lake of Fire. But if you are born twice - physical birth and spiritual birth - then you only go through physical death. You have to. It is explained in Hebrews 9:27. Ecclesiastes 3:1: *“There is a time to die.”* Hebrews 9:27: *“And as it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment”* - which is the great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) *“and if your name is not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life, you are cast into the lake of fire.”* Not that God takes pleasure in doing that, but you rejected the redemption, you rejected the Redeemer, the person Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. You said no and you declared that you do not believe that was the way it worked. That was up to you. You made that decision. The decision will come forth because your name will not be in the Lamb's Book of Life because of your own arrogance thinking that you could redeem yourself by being good or nice, or you didn't care. Physical death is unavoidable since this body will not function or work in heaven. Why? Because it is sin infected and must return to dust. But your soul and your spirit live on in a new body forever. That's the wonderful thing about it. The soul and the spirit live on in a new body - a resurrection body - a body that will be with you throughout all eternity. Now death for the unbeliever is a horrible thing since there is no more chance for salvation. Death for the believer is a total victory, and for the spiritually mature believer it is a promotion with honors. It's a wonderful thing. You have to decide which route you want to take. For the mature believer these are the words that you can cling to - Job 5:19-27. What am I calling a mature believer? I'm talking about a believer who stays filled with the Holy Spirit on a consistent basis. Not that he doesn't sin, but he rebounds his sin (problem-solving device #1) and he is a believer who is growing according to 2 Peter 3:18, *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,”* growing daily, listening to a well-qualified pastor teaching and feeding on God's Word (sits down, listens, takes notes and applies what they learn in their life). That's what I'm talking about a mature believer - a person who is growing spiritually, who is not stagnant and staying the same, but is advancing spiritually in the plan of God. Job says, *“From six disasters God will deliver you, furthermore, in seven no evil will touch you. In depression [that's economic disaster] He will preserve you from death, in battle from the stroke of the sword. You will be hidden from the lash of the tongue, [which is sort of a social disaster from sins of the tongue] and you will not be afraid of death when it comes. You will*

*laugh at death and famine, you have nothing to fear from a violent death. You will have a covenant with the stones of the field; [that's weapons and ammunition] and wild animals will be at peace with you. And therefore you will know that your human body is in peace, for you will visit your home in heaven and you will not forfeit blessing or reward. And you will know that your seed will be numerous and your descendants like the grass of the earth [that's perpetuation of our client nation]. You will come to the grave in full age, like a shock of corn in its season. Behold this doctrine, we have researched it, this is the gist of it; hear it and apply it to yourselves" (Job 5:19-27). "Coming to your grave in a full age" - there is nothing worse than coming to your grave too soon. Some people do it by acts of stupidity - driving stupidly, drinking excessively; some people do it by suicide - coming to the grave too early. God has laid out a course of action for your life and a plan for your life and it's not for you to decide to do something stupid and wind up not only hurting yourself but hurting other people. Yet it happens every day. Stupid decisions lead to injury. **Bad decisions limit future options but stupid decisions hurt people.** Sometimes people check out way too soon because they are stupid; they drink and they drive, they drink and do drugs, they drive and get road rage and run people over and shoot people. We hear about it every day. Stupid things. America is the land of the stupid, look at politics today. **You cannot be removed from life apart from the sovereignty of God. If you are mature believer, if you are growing in grace, if you are representing Jesus Christ, the principle is that until God makes the decision, nothing will remove you from this life. And once that decision has been made by God, once the command comes down to bring you home, nothing will keep you here.** For the unbeliever, the person without Christ, it's a daily gamble. In Luke 12:16-21, this is what Jesus said, *"He told them a parable saying this, The land of the rich man was very productive. And he began to reason to himself, saying, What shall I do, since I have no place to store all of my crops? And then he said, This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and store all my grains and all my goods there. Then I will say to my soul these words, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; be easy, eat, drink and be merry. But God said to him, You are a fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own which you prepared? So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."* None of that will go with you. None of it. For the unbeliever, the thought that he can make himself happy is an illusion because he doesn't know when he's going to go, he doesn't know how he's going to go. There have been tremendous incidences of famous individuals that have been kidnapped and murdered. Wealthy individuals held for ransom, killed, destroyed. You don't know when you get in a car and drive down the road and 5-feet to your left there's another vehicle approaching you at 80 miles an hour - that's a head on crash if that person loses attention, gets on the phone, looks down to take a text. It happens every day. **None of us have control over the beginning or the ending of life, but we do have control over our future destiny and how we live during our time on this sin infested planet.** Joshua, the Old Testament leader of Israel after the death of Moses, put it this way in Joshua 24:15, *"And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, then choose you this day whom**

you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house we are going to serve the Lord.” Even an atheist serves a god - the god of self. He might not believe in the Trinity, the Triune God, he might not believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, but he makes his own god and his own god is himself - self god. You and I must make a decision about whom we are going to allow to direct the course of our lives and provide for our needs. The question that I'm asking you today is, where do you get your direction in life? One thing you can be certain about, and that is the enemy has a cosmic system or, shall we say, a cosmic smokescreen to blind you from the true facts of God's plan. He doesn't want you to know it. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, *“In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine in unto them.”* If there's anything that Satan wants to do, it is to stop people from believing in Jesus Christ. Maybe you've never thought about why you are here. Maybe it's never really entered your mind. There is a reason why you are here and that is to resolve this angelic conflict. In eternity past Satan was condemned to the Lake of Fire because of his own arrogance (Isaiah 14). He doesn't want to go to the Lake of Fire. He knows it's a real place and so he is constantly trying to vindicate himself and trying to impugn the name of God by attacking God's love, saying, ‘If you were a loving God, You wouldn't send me there. If You were a loving God, You wouldn't have created me. You knew what I was going to do, You created me, it is Your fault that I sinned.’ No, it's not. **God loves you. God gives you autonomy and the freedom to choose. You have the freedom to choose. You can choose for or against Christ and you can choose for or against God's plan for your life.** Just to make it straight, there are two ways you can go: the Thy-way-highway or the my-way-highway. Either one. it is your choice. You are going to make decisions based on something. Something is going to guide you and direct you, and you have a choice. You can let your friends guide you and direct you, you can let social media guide you and direct you, or you can go to the Bible, you can go to the Word of God. God says in Jeremiah 29:11, *“I know the plans I have for you, they are to prosper you and make you happy.”* That's God's plan. But in your own mind, when you rebel against the plan of God, and you go down the my-way-highway, and you make stupid decisions, not only are you going to hurt yourself but you are going hurt other people. And when you make bad decisions you are going to limit all of your options in life. There are people sitting in penitentiaries today listening to me, wonderful friends that I have that write to me. They've made bad decisions and they are paying for it. They would tell you the same thing. ‘Don't do this. Look where I wound up because of a bad decision that I made or a stupid decision that I made. I've hurt my family, I've hurt my children, I've hurt my friends. I would never do that again if I could get out of here.’ They will eventually get out, thank God for that. We have to remember the concept - we make decisions every day of our life and where do we get the information to make them? Even though your length of time is determined by God, as I said, He gives you the autonomy to determine your own course of action while you are here. He lets you decide. So where do the instructions come from? When I was born I didn't get an

instruction manual about how to live, or did I? Actually, I did. **The very principles and provisions and promises that God gave for me are found in the Scripture, and they can ensure that I have a wonderful life. Rejecting those provisions, ignoring those promises can lead to much unhappiness and regret from bad decisions accumulated over years of frustration and failure.** It's a shame, but that's what people do, because in their own arrogance they reject everything God has provided for them. I want to ask you a simple question. Do you understand God loves you? Do you know that? In 2 Corinthians 13:14, *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you."* This is what Paul wrote. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ - that's what was provided on the cross for you. The love of God the Father - *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* (John 3:16). The fellowship of the Holy Spirit - He will come and live in you, Jesus Christ said that. He said I'm going to go away but I'm going to send a tutor, a mentor, that will live in you, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will guide you and direct you (John 16; John 14). God loves you. He has made provisions for you to have a wonderful life, an amazing life, a life called the Christian life. It's a life without fear, a life without worry, a life without guilt, a life without bitterness. It is not a life without tests. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:13, we all go through tests, they are common to man. This is what Solomon wrote about - the tests of life and how they come down the pipeline. But the provisions to handle the tests are amazing. God's impersonal love toward you is part of His eternal comfort of grace and part of the problem-solving devices He gives you in the FLOT line of your soul if you will learn them. God provided encouragement for you and me in the lowest moments of our lives. God's love for us is directed towards the righteousness of Jesus Christ, not our righteousness, the righteousness of Jesus Christ. He loves me because of what Christ provided for me, not on the basis of what I've done for Him. We don't need comfort. We need encouragement. Encouragement of heart comes from metabolizing the Word of God into your stream of consciousness, learning it, applying it, living by it. The love of God has provided eternal encouragement for us by means of His Word. That's where it comes from. 1 Peter 1:24-25, *"For 'All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord endures forever.' And this is the word that was preached to you."* This is an eternal provision for your encouragement. The Bible contains all you need to know for a wonderful life between birth and death and also how to have an amazing eternal future in the presence of your Creator. Solomon's admonition about timing was critical since your course of life depends on those decisions you make. I hope you have been listening. I hope you have been paying attention. I hope you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that that is true. If I can help in any way, don't hesitate to write. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

God's Timing - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 738 aired on October 13, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes you have an invitation to stick around for 30-minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and absolutely zero manipulation. We're not here to con you, we're not here to solicit money, we're not going to ask you for anything. We just would like for you to listen up as we discuss the Word of God. Hopefully I can verify and identify God's plan for your life and you can orient and adjust to the plan, if you'd like to do that, that's up to you. God gave you two ends; one of those ends you think with and one of those ends you sit on. Success in your life depends on which one you use; heads you win, tails you lose. Bad decisions limit future options. If you make enough bad decisions you will not have any options left. Good decisions open the door to wonderful blessings in your life. The best decision you could ever make is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul told the Roman jailer, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved and your entire family*" (Acts 16:31). The Bible is clear, "*He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life, and he that believes not, the wrath of God abides on him already*" (John 3:36). That was the big question, is Jesus the Messiah? Is He the anointed son of God? That's what people had to decide when Christ walked on this earth. Once He went to heaven, through the resurrection and the ascension, He commissioned the apostles to go to the whole world and tell the whole world the story that He had resurrected from the dead. Here's the interesting thing, they didn't speak the languages. They didn't have time to learn all the languages of the world. That's where God the Holy Spirit miraculously gave them the ability to speak in those languages - it's called tongues. Not the tongues you hear about today, but what it was back in those days, the ability to speak a foreign language without having learned it. This show, FLOT Line, is about you building ten unique problem-solving devices inside the thinking of your soul. If you learn these wonderful Biblical principles and use them then you will be able to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. It begins with you learning how to rebound, how to confess your sin consistently, not waiting until you go to bed at night, but when you sin, name it immediately. The Bible says, "*If we confess our sin, then He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9). It also deals with you understanding the filling of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says in Ephesians 5:18, "*Be filled with the Spirit.*" How does that happen? The moment you rebound, the moment you name any sin, you are instantly filled with the Holy Spirit. You are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at salvation (Ephesians 1:13), but you are filled with the Holy Spirit when you name sin. This gives you the opportunity to function under the faith-rest drill - taking the promises of God's Word, living on those promises, using them in your life every day. By the way, we have a book on the promises and principles provided in the Word of God. It's free and if you'd like to have a copy of it, don't hesitate to contact us at rickhughesministries.org and we will send you a free copy of the book *Bible Promises & Principles*. There's no narrative, it's simply Bible promises that are associated with certain

circumstances in your life and short principles that will carry you through life. As you learn the faith-rest drill - as Moses told the Jews, *“Stand still and watch the deliverance of the Lord”* (Exodus 14:13) - you begin to orient to God's grace. Understanding we are saved by grace, we live by grace, there is grace in heaven, we die by grace. We show grace to other people. Once you start living by grace orientation it opens the door to a wonderful way of living with the monkey off your back, waiting on God's deliverance. This comes by Biblical orientation (what I call doctrinal orientation), with you learning the Scriptures. How do you do that? *“Study to show yourself approved to God a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth”* (2 Corinthians 2:15). That's the only way you can learn the Scripture - to *“grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18). Study and grow are both imperative mood verbs and they are telling you, that as a Christian, you must grow up. You must come to the place where you understand the protocol plan of God in your life - how it works. It's much more than just ritual without reality to it. Many people go to church every Sunday to perform a ritual and there is no reality to it. The Christian life I'm speaking about is very real. It's a unique way of living day-by-day, 24-hours a day, moment-by-moment, utilizing the assets of the provisions that God has given to you. This gives you a personal sense of destiny. You know you're going to heaven, you know that - to be absent from the body, to be face-to-face with the Lord. But you also have a destiny in this life. You have a destiny with your spiritual gift. What gift has God provided you to do? How does He want to use you? Where does He want to use you? It's like the football team (we're not all quarterbacks, we're not all tackles, we're not all ends, we're not all running backs) each person plays a position on the team. You have a spiritual gift. God has equipped you to do a certain thing and part of the maturity process is you learning to grow, growing up and learning what that gift is. This is all motivated because you love God. *“If you love Me you will obey Me. My mandates are not grievous”* (John 14:15). Do you love God? Do you obey God? That's the number one motivational virtue in your whole life - personal love for God. How can you love a God you don't even know? Most people don't know God is sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, immutability, veracity, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence. I know, I just threw out a bunch of big words but basically that's the essence of God. Do you know that? Do you know anything about the God you serve? Learning God's Word, learning the provisions God has made for you, beginning with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, gives you a great appreciation for who the Father is and what He's done for you. The more you know Him, the more you love Him. The more you love Him you can extend that impersonal love for all mankind - just like He did it for you. *“God so loved the world”* (John 3:16). He loves you. Even when you are a jerk, even when I was a jerk, He loved us and He sent His Son to die for us. Thus, we can love people that are jerks. We don't have to hate them. We don't have to be mad at them. We can love them based on our character, not their character. This takes us to sharing the happiness of God, a wonderful problem-solving device. The Lord Jesus Christ taught the disciples how to have His joy in them. It's a wonderful thing to have plus H, the happiness of God, because it doesn't depend on circumstances or people. Jesus said in Luke

11:28, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word, and keep it."* Then there comes occupation with Christ, your final problem-solving device. When you begin to be occupied with the person of Christ, *Christ in you, the hope of glory* (Colossians 1:27), reflecting Christ, re-presenting Christ to your friends, representing Christ through your church - this is what it's all about. It's all designed so that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, receives ultimate glory and honor and that we bring men and women to Christ so that they might have eternal life. The Bible says, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He shed on us abundantly through [by means of] Jesus Christ our Lord, that being justified by His grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life"* (Titus 3:5-7). We are heirs in Christ. So, here we are in time, wading our way through time, trying to figure out what this life is all about. We started talking last week about Solomon imploring us to understand that there's a time for every season, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Let me read it one more time. *"There is a time for everything, there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heavens, a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which has been planted. A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to cast away the stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. A time to get and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away. A time to rend and a time to sew together; a time to keep silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace."* The passage I just read to you is Solomon writing about God's timing for all events on this planet. Some of these things you must act upon and some of them you have no control over. This is what we talked about last week and continue this week. Solomon's admonition about the timing of God is critical since your course of life, my course of life, depends on the decisions that we make. For example, if we plant out of season, then we won't have a harvest. **There's a right time and a wrong time to do most anything in life. A lot of critical mistakes have been made when people choose the wrong time to undertake certain events. There is a right time and a wrong time. What you want to be sure you do is, do the right thing at the right time.** My pastor once told me that there is actually a right time to make no decision at all. You don't have to make decisions sometimes; you put them off because you don't have all the information. But if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I ask that you get on God's calendar and off of your own calendar since those distractions in front of you will wind up destroying you. You can live your life in turmoil if you want to or you can live a life of tranquility, that's up to you. It all starts in your soul - what you think. There's the real you - what is spinning around inside that head between your ears - what you think. That's where you live your spiritual life. That's where it all takes place. What you think is what you are. If you have been born again, if you have trusted Jesus Christ to be your Savior, then it's imperative to understand you must have a spiritual life. The spiritual life is not the physical life. They are two different lives. The physical life is lived in the body, the spiritual life is lived in the soul. The spiritual life is operational in the soul. Thus,

the soul must be equipped to recognize and sustain the spiritual life. You have a mind, that's part of the format of your soul, the mentality of your soul. We are not all on the same level mentally. Some people are very smart, some people are not very smart. The plan of God takes all that into consideration. The plan of God provides everything you need to be smart and to make smart decisions. The smartest decision you can make is to learn that plan and live by it and stay off of the my-way-highway. The spiritual life must be learned in the mentality of the soul because that's where the battle takes place every day of your life - in your thoughts, in your mind, in your thinking. 1 Peter 2:11 says, *"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as a sojourner and as a pilgrim to abstain from fleshly lusts or thoughts, which war against your soul."* There is a battle for your soul, for the mentality of your soul, and for the volitional decisions you make in your soul. Your soul not only functions in the time continuum, right now, it will also function in eternity since you carry your thinking with you into eternity. You don't carry this body, it's going to go back into the ground and turn into dust again, but your soul and your spirit will get a resurrection body and you will carry your thoughts with you. You won't be sad. The Bible says, *"There will be no more tears, no more sorrow, no more pain, the old things to be passed away"* (Revelation 21:4). But you will remember, and you will carry those things you've learned with you. That's how we appreciate what happens when we get there. The soul is made up of mentality, the soul has volition (the chooser), the soul has a conscience inside of you, and the soul has a self-consciousness. What is your soul? It's the invisible immortal part of you that God created in His image. That's what your soul is. Remember, the soul life that you have is not in your blood. If you get all your blood taken out, you bleed out, and they put all new blood in you, your soul is still there. Also remember the soul is not the seat of your emotions. No, it's not. Your emotions could be altered or even removed by destroying certain parts of your brain. Thus, man can only create biological life by copulation (a man and a woman copulate and conceive) but only God can impute the soul to that biological life. Man and woman don't make the soul, God does. In the end, the sin infected body will be destroyed, but the soul and the spirit of the born again believer are delivered into a new body at the resurrection. Psalm 34:22, *"The Lord redeems the soul of His servants; and none of them who trust in Him shall ever be desolate [abandoned or forgotten]."* In Mark 8:36-37, *"What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his soul? For what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* Since the mentality of your soul is the command post of your body and the way you think is what you do, then you must be sure you make decisions based on the very best information you can get. When people get sick they search the Internet to get the best doctor, to get the best information, to find the best medicines. You must be sure you're making decisions in your life based on the very best information possible. The Bible says in Proverbs 23:7, *"As you think in your heart, so you are."* Everything that you are started with a thought and that thought became a decision and that decision became a process. You are a victim of your thoughts. The cosmic system seeks to influence your thinking every day. There is an attack on your mind every day through social media, television, radio, the Internet trying to control what you think. Getting you to think human viewpoint. Getting you to

think in a new way. In our society today it's a progressive way of thinking. Getting you to be inclusive in all your thoughts and to buy into the process that everybody should be treated equally and fairly, regardless of race, gender, creed. That's true, God loves everybody equally and fairly, but if you get down to the bottom line of what is sin and what is not sin, we cannot respect those who live in sin and flaunt it before God. It's impossible. The soul is the command post of the body. **We have to make sure we are making decisions based on the best information which is the Bible.** There's a lot of information out there, and a lot of people say, 'Well, this is okay. Fred does it, so it must be okay. You can do it too. It's fun. It's a new way of living.' But the Bible says it is a sin and that sin will destroy a nation if you get involved in it. There are certain sins in the Bible that have national implications. The information that we need to live a wonderful, meaningful life is found in the Bible. The alternative information that we don't need is found in the cosmic system and the cosmic system is much more available than the Bible today. It hits you every day on the Internet, it hits you every day on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, it hits you every day on the news and what news you're watching. Every day there is an attack on your mind to control what you think. You don't read the Bible every day. You should, but you don't. You don't open the Bible and ponder what the verses tell you every day. Sometimes you only take it to church with you on Sunday and don't read it much then. That's a mistake. **In the pages of that Bible are all the principles and all the provisions that you need to have a wonderful life. To the extent that you neglect what's in the Bible, it's a guarantee that you will wind up miserable and wind up destroying your life.** *"Shame is the legacy of the fool"* (Proverbs 3:35). In Proverbs 1:5, *"a man of understanding will attain wise counsel."* So the objective of the devil, a.k.a. the enemy, is to brainwash us, neutralize us and just shut us down so we cannot be an effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. How does he do that? If he can get you to act on the wrong information then he can get you to represent his plan instead of God's plan. God's plan is the divine institutions: freedom, family, marriage and nationalism. Satan's plan comes along and if you buy into it, you reject the concept of marriage. You believe in free and easy living together without getting married or you believe in man/man or woman/woman marriage sort of deal. That's not what the Bible teaches. You justify it because your friends did it and they told you it's okay. You have no idea of the impact that it has on this nation. If Satan can get you to act on the wrong information then he can get you to represent his plan instead of God's plan. Satan's plan is a lie. It's based on the lie. The devil is a liar. The Lord Jesus Christ said that, *"he's a liar and a murderer from the beginning"* (John 8:44). Satan has a system. He has a plan called the doctrine of demons. He even has his own preachers. There are many churches today that are filled with pastors and pastorets of Satan who are teaching false doctrine. People buy into it. They believe it. That's their choice. The first step is usually to influence you by means of your friends, influence you by means of your contemporaries since you are usually concerned about what people think about you. These types of people are the cosmic evangelists that recruit you for Satan's cosmic system - called evil in the Bible. You are being recruited daily by social media. The mainstream media pushes diversity and inclusion as a

new way of thinking and anyone who doesn't conform to this new way of progressive thinking is a racist or sexist or a bigot. That's the way they attack you. It's true that Jesus Christ, God's anointed Son, died for all members of the human race - everybody. The Scriptures verify it. We see in 2 Peter 3:9, *"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance [to change their mind about Christ]."* It's also true the justice of God observes the sin of man and holds him accountable. In the following case, Peter is dealing with false prophets - people who deny the Lord Jesus Christ and take advantage of unsuspecting listeners. False prophets among the children of Israel and false prophets in the body of Christ bring destructive heresies and deny Christ. This is a reference to the legalists who abused their power and took advantage of the early church in the time of Peter. Here's what Peter said about that, *"False prophets arose among the people, just as there will be among you false prophets, these false prophets will infiltrate your midst [they will slip in among you and you won't even know they're there] and they will do it with destructive heresy [that's cosmic system lies, the evil that Satan propagates] even in the point of denying the Master that bought them, and as a result they will bring swift destruction on themselves. And many [that's their recruits] will follow their debauched lifestyles, because of these false teachers the way of truth will be slandered; and in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words; their condemnation has been pronounced long ago and is not sitting idly by, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell and locked them up in chains in utter darkness, to be kept until the judgment; and if He did not spare the ancient world, but did protect Noah, a herald of righteousness, along with seven others, when God brought a flood on the ungodly world; and if He turned to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when He condemned them to destruction having appointed them to serve as an example to future generations who were ungodly; and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man in anguish over the debauched lifestyle of the lawless men (for while he lived among them day after day that righteous man was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds that he saw and heard), if so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from the trials, and to reserve the unrighteous for punishment at the day of judgment, especially those who indulge their fleshly desires and who despise authority. Brazen, insolent, not afraid to assault the glorious ones, yet even angels who are much more powerful do not bring slanderous judgment against them before the Lord. These men, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct born to be caught and destroyed, do not understand who they are insulting and consequently in their destruction they will be destroyed"* (2 Peter 2:1-12). There's a warning from Peter. This is what's coming down the pipe for us. This is what America is facing. It is my prayer that you will grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That you will learn God's Word, stand on it, use it and believe it. I trust you will. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

God's Timing - Part 3

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 739 aired on October 20, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes, please stick around. You have an invitation to stay with me for about thirty-minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and no manipulation. We're not asking you for money, we're not going to try to sell you anything, we're not going to solicit anything. We simply are giving you information that's designed to help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you would like to orient and adjust to that plan you have the freedom to do so. FLOT is a military term for Forward Line of Troops. We are trying to teach ten unique problem-solving devices. When you learn the ten problem-solving devices out of the Bible and understand them then it's possible for you to stop the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside source of stress. That's why we say adversity is inevitable, but stress is optional. Adversity is what you do to yourself or what circumstances do to you. But stress - you don't have to live that way. You don't have to live in fear, with worry, with anger, with jealousy or with bitterness (these are all mental attitude sins that destroy your life) by learning God's wonderful problem-solving devices: rebound (problem-solving device #1), filling of the Holy Spirit (problem-solving device #2), the faith-rest drill (problem-solving device #3), grace orientation (#4), doctrinal orientation (#5), a personal sense of destiny (#6), personal love for God as your motivational virtue and then impersonal love for all (#7 and #8), sharing the happiness of God (problem-solving device #9), and occupation with the person of Christ (#10). We have all of these in a free book called *Christian Problem Solving*. It's a summary of what each one of these are. If you'd like the book, don't hesitate to contact us on our website rickhughesministries.org. This morning we will continue our study on change is coming. This is the third episode in that series. We're dealing with Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, the passage that deals with God's timing for all events on the earth as Solomon wrote it. To begin with he said, *"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which was planted ..."* We went through all of these, all the way through verse eight where it says, *"There's a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time for peace."* The bottom line is that nothing stays the same forever. Change is inevitable. You and I being here, we'll be gone someday. Change is inevitable. That doesn't mean it's a bad thing but it's inevitable, it will happen. **The principle is: uncontrollable circumstances in your life are often the way God directs you.** We also saw that sometimes we get out of step with God in our life, but He does not forget us. We studied a little bit about why Solomon wrote these things. We saw, *"a time to be born"* and that's not only your physical birthday but your spiritual birthday as well. You know you must be born twice or you will die twice. The first birthday is physical; you had nothing to do with it, your parents copulated and you were conceived. The second birthday is your spiritual birth and that's when you are born again. Then there are two deaths: death one, *"it's appointed unto man once to die, and after that the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27); and death two, *"whoever's name was not found written in the Lamb's book of life was cast into the lake of*

fire. This is the second death” (Revelation 20:14-15). There are two deaths and two births. That's why I say if you are born twice, you are only going to die once; if you are born once, you are going to die twice. I hope that makes sense to you. As we went on, we saw that physical death is unavoidable, there's no way around it, it is going to happen. We saw that there is no way that you can be removed from this life apart from the sovereignty of God. **The principle is: God keeps you here until He makes the decision and nothing's going to remove you from this life until He's ready to take you.** None of us have control over the time that we come or the time that we leave. Our future destiny, we do have control over that, whether or not we are going to heaven. And we do have control over how we live during our time on this sin infested planet. We saw were Joshua said, *“As for me and my house, we are going to serve the Lord”* (Joshua 24:15). So you have to make a decision. How will you live? How will you choose to live? Where will you make your decisions from? That's why the Bible says, *“All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers, and the flower fails, but the Word of the Lord will endure forever. And this is the word that was preached to you”* (1 Peter 1:24-25). **God's timing is critical in all of our lives. Understanding His plan and how His plan works. It starts with us having a spiritual life. That means a spiritual birth, being born again, accepting Christ as your Savior, demands you have a spiritual life.** We saw that the spiritual life is operational in your soul. That's where it's lived, that's where it starts and you have to recognize that. You have to sustain your spiritual life. It is lived in the mentality of your soul. Your soul not only functions in time while you are here, but it will also be with you in eternity when you leave here because you carry your thinking with you into eternity. We studied that. We saw that the soul is made up of mentality, volition, consciousness, self-consciousness and it's invisible and it's immortal. We tried to show you how a husband and wife can copulate and conceive a child in human life, but only God can give the soul. We saw that the soul is not in the blood. I mean, if you have a blood transfusion and lose all your blood in a serious accident, you can have more blood put in but your soul is not in your blood. The soul is in the mentality of the body. We saw in Psalm 34:22, *“The Lord redeems the soul of His servants; and none of them who trust in Him will ever be desolate.”* We saw in Mark 8:36, *“What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”* We want to press on today in our study seeing how the cosmic recruiter tries to recruit you into evil - the devil's system. Peter wrote about these false teachers in his time who were going in and trying to distort the gospel information. He said these words in 2 Peter 2:1-19 (I'm going to spend some time in these 19 verses, hopefully to help you to see what this means), *“But false prophets arise among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, and these false teachers will infiltrate your midst, with destructive heresies...”* What is a destructive heresy? The Greek word *apoleia* means destructive. The destructive heresy is nothing more than salvation by works or spirituality by praise and worship. A destructive heresy is someone who works their way into your church or into your periphery and tells you that if you want to go to heaven you have to be good and you can't smoke and can't drink, can't dance, can't wear this and can't do that. That is salvation by works and that is not

what the Bible says. The Bible says, *“For by grace are you saved through faith; and it's a gift from God, not of works”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). A destructive heresy is someone lying to you about how you get saved because in the end you will never have any salvation; you will do what the Bible says in Matthew 7:22-23, *“Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out devils?’ And I will tell them, ‘I never knew you [never heard of you, don't know who you are].’”* Salvation by works is a destructive heresy. Spirituality by praise and worship is another destructive heresy. The word heresy is the word that I'm talking about. We have two words put together here, *apoleia* and heresy, and that is destructive heresy. Heresy is a self-willed opinion that is substituted for truth. That's what happens when someone gets away from the Word of God and they think they're smarter than God or they are just plain outright liars, deceiving you, drawing you into something that's not true. Peter went on to say these sort of people that preach the destructive heresies *“... will even go to the point of denying the Master who bought them...”* That means that Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior bought and paid for you on the cross. *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us, so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). You are a bought possession. You have been redeemed out of the slave market of sin as a believer in Jesus Christ. Since they denied the Master that bought them, they denied Christ. Thus Peter wrote, *“...they will bring swift destruction on themselves. And many will follow their debauched lifestyle, because these false teachers will slander the way of truth; and in their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words; their condemnation was pronounced a long time ago, it's not sitting idly by, their destruction is not asleep.”* There are deceptive cosmic recruiters trying to recruit you into a different way of thinking; not having the mind of Christ, not seeing divine viewpoint. This is the key, divine viewpoint is how you want to think; it is the mind of Christ. Not human viewpoint or what we call evil, because this is exactly what Satan wants you to do. He wants you to abandon the Bible as a guide post. He wants you to move away from the Word of God and substitute a destructive heresy rather than what is truth. So Peter says they are dead already, *their condemnation was pronounced a long time ago, and it's not sitting idly by.* 2 Peter 2:4, *“For if God did not spare even the angels that sinned [this is what happened to Satan in his arrogance], but threw them into hell and locked them up in chains in utter darkness, to be kept until the judgment [that's from Genesis 6 about the Nephilim]; and if You did not spare the ancient world, but did protect Noah, a herald of righteousness, along with seven others, when God brought a flood on the ungodly world;”* 2 Peter 2:6, *“and if He turned to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah...”* A lot of people don't like to hear that, they don't agree with that, but this was a condemnation to the homosexuality that was rampant in Sodom and Gomorrah when the homosexuals there tried to rape some angels that came to visit Lot. It says, *“...when he condemned them to destruction [that's the whole city] having appointed them to serve as an example to future generations of ungodly; ...”* And that's what we don't like to hear. We don't like to hear that. But that whole thing about Sodom and Gomorrah is an example to the United States of America. The word is ungodly. Whenever you turn your back on the divine institutions

(marriage, family, freedom and nationalism) and you begin to set up an alternative lifestyle, regardless of what you call it, inclusion or whatever way you want to say, you are living an ungodly life. That's okay, that's what you chose to do, you have the freedom to do that, you are a free American, free individual and you can decide your own destiny. 2 Peter 2:7, "*and if He rescued Lot [which He did out of Sodom and Gomorrah], a righteous man who was in anguish over the debauched lifestyle of the lawless men of Sodom and Gomorrah*" 2 Peter 2:8, "*(because he lived among them day after day and he was tormented in his righteous soul by the deeds that he saw and he heard), if so [if all of this happened; then here's what is a wonderful truth to you] then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from their trials...*" Are you godly? That's a good question to ask. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "*No temptation has tried you that is not common to man; and God always provides a way out.*" Are you godly? There are two ways to answer that. Have you received the righteousness of Christ in your life? Have you been born again? As the Bible says, "*He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). When you have that plus R, God's righteousness, you are godly in your position. Then we have our experience. Are we living godly lives? If you are filled with the Holy Spirit and you are letting the Holy Spirit control your life (you are going to sin from time to time because you have a sin nature, there is no way around that) but if you rebound that sin and continue to advance in your spiritual life then you are living a godly life in time. That's the key to it - living that life in time. So back to the verse, "*...if so then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from their trials and to reserve the unrighteousness [those who reject the Word of God, who reject Jesus Christ, who reject God's plan] for punishment at the day of judgment [that's the Great White Throne], and especially [listen to this now] those who indulge in their fleshly desires [this is the sin nature run amok] and who despise authority [that's negative volition towards legitimate authority].*" The first legitimate authority you ever face is God and His Word. The first mandate, "*You shall love the Lord God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind*" (Matthew 22:37). Those who despise authority are said to be brazen people. This is true of America today; those who get sucked into the cosmic system, who buy into the devil's lie of the alternative lifestyle are very brazen. The Greek word for brazen is *tolmetes*, it means daring and irreverent. And then it goes on, another descriptive adjective is they are insolent which means they are self-willed and inconsiderate of other people. So this sort of person is, "*Daring [irreverent], self-willed [inconsiderate of others], they are not afraid to insult the glorious ones [that's you].*" They are not afraid to run you down, not afraid to criticize you because you believe the Bible, not afraid to call you nasty names because you don't agree with their lifestyle. Then he goes on, 2 Peter 2:11, "*Yet even the angels who are much more powerful don't bring slanderous judgment against them before the Lord. But these men, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct born to be caught and to be destroyed, they don't understand who they are, and consequently in their destruction they will be destroyed.*" This is exactly true today. What's going on in this country is so many people are propagating this lifestyle and do not understand that they are planting the seeds for their own

destruction. We are teetering on the edge right now in this client nation because of the way people think. They don't think like you think. The majority of them don't think like you think. I know, I read the same polls you do from time to time; who's going to be elected and who's not going to be elected, but if you understand how the lost world thinks and what they believe in and what they think is okay and legitimate and good and true - it is so far from what the Word of God says. They are planting the seeds for their own destruction even this day, in this country. The verse goes on to say *"suffering harm as the wages for their harmful ways. They consider it a pleasure to carouse in broad daylight. They are stains and blemishes [in other words if you get around them it's going to rub off on you] indulging in their deceitful pleasures, when they feast together with you, their eyes are full of adultery and never stop sinning, they entice unstable people, they have trained their hearts for greed, these cursed children; by forsaking the right path they have gone astray, they follow the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness, yet was rebuked for his own transgression; by a dumb donkey, speaking to him with a human voice, restraining the prophet's madness. These sort of people are waterless springs, and a mist driven by storm, for whom the utter depths of darkness have been reserved. Because by speaking high sounding but empty words they are able to entice [lure, pull people away] with fleshly desires and debauchery, people who have just escaped from those who reside in error, and although these false teachers promise many people freedom, they themselves are enslaved to their own immorality; because whatever a person gives into, that he is enslaved to.* That's a lot of verses. I'm sorry to take so long to read it. It was written to the false teachers in Peter's day, but you can see the pattern and the trend in the United States of America today with certain key words that we highlighted there. What's an unrighteous person? That is someone who doesn't possess the righteousness of Christ. In this case, it's the unbeliever who rejects the divine establishment principles and who lives only to please the trends of his sin nature. He does that by despising authority because the ultimate authority of man is the will of God expressed in the Scriptures. Without humility there is no teachability. Isaiah 46:10 talks about the ultimate authority of God, it says, *"Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient time things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose [My will] will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure.'"* The psalmist repeats it in Psalm 135:6, *"Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and all the depths of the seas."* The arrogant person who justifies their sin, justifies their debauchery, justifies leading you into that same sin, does not see the reality of what they really are because they have an unrealistic self-image from their own arrogance and from rejecting the authority of the Word of God. When you reject the authority of the Word of God you are going down a dead end street. You think you are smarter than God. You find ways to say, 'Well, the Bible doesn't really mean that. The Bible doesn't really say that.' Yes it does. These arrogant people have this unrealistic self-image and that always leads to an unrealistic expectation of how they are to be treated as normal, wonderful, great individuals. Wrong. Peter says they are daring and self-willed, they don't tremble. It is the height of arrogance for anyone not to respect God and His Word or His Son, our Savior, the Lord

Jesus Christ. They are reveling, partying, carousing, where they have no knowledge which means they are completely unaware or unconcerned about God's divine design for all members of the human race. Paul wrote about it, warned about it, in Ephesians 4:17-19, *"I'm telling you don't live like the Gentiles live in the emptiness of their mind, because darkness in their soul keeps them from understanding what they are doing, they are excluded from the life of God because of their own ignorance, and because of the hearts that have drawn hard, they become callous, and they have betrayed their own souls [or given their own soul over] to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness."* That's descriptive analogy right there of the sort of person we're talking about. Read it for yourself. The scar tissue that builds up on the soul of the unbeliever or the believer who rejects God's Word and goes for the alternative lifestyle is very destructive. It's a debauched lifestyle, it's slandering the truth, the Bible says, 2 Peter 2:1-19. This total preoccupation with diversity and inclusion is running rampant in our nation today. If we don't have the opportunity to teach our children the truth then they will have no hope of avoiding the lies of the cosmic system. Those lies will promise all sorts of happiness in unrestrained sin nature activity. They won't even recognize the lie when they hear it. The whole deal that Satan is concerned about is shutting down this client nation and its evangelistic outreach at home and abroad. We are a threat to his plan, we are threat to his goal. He's headed for the Lake of Fire and he doesn't want us interfering with that. He wants to get out of the Lake of Fire. He wants to stop you from being a testimony, a witness for Jesus Christ. So these people are exploited by deceptive words [that's lies] they entice unstable people through organized religion, high sounding but empty words, they are great orators, deliver great messages. But listen, here's the key here. Great delivery does not guarantee accuracy. That's something you need to remember. These sort of people promise freedom, but they are themselves enslaved to immorality, the Bible says. America's time in history is teetering on the edge. But you can deliver us yourself by being an invisible impact, as a winner believer who influences your family and your friends by your lifestyle and by your words. You and I are the purveyors of truth and the purveyors of hope. That's why our Lord Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life"* (John 14:6). The life that we're talking about in Christ is beyond your wildest dreams - it's a life of blessing, it's a life of confidence, it's a life of prosperity, all because of God's unfailing love for us. God's love never falters, never changes. All He asks is that you love Him and that you obey Him. No one's asking you to destroy your life. No one's asking you to do anything harmful. Just listen to what the Word of God says and obey it because Jesus Christ our Lord said, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word, and keep it"* (Luke 11:28). There is no chance of happiness if people don't hear the Word of God because they don't know their options. There is no chance of happiness if you hear it, but you don't keep it. I have given you some information today, rather lengthy information. I hope you heard it. I hope you listened and I hope you will learn and apply it into your life. I'm your host Rick Hughes, heard every Sunday here on the FLOT Line. Don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to. Until next Sunday, thank you for listening to our show today.

The Stages of Life - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 740 aired on October 27, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I'd like to give you an invitation to stick around. It will be a few minutes of motivation, inspiration, education done without any manipulation. We don't try to hustle people, we're not seeking money, we're not trying to sell you anything, we're not trying to ask you to join anything. We simply want to give you some information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you are able to do that, then you can orient and adjust to the plan. God gave you two ends; one end to sit on and one end to think with. Success in your life depends on which one of those ends you use; heads you win, tails you lose. As we go through the FLOT Line we try to give you information based on the Bible. What God has to say about winning in life. We talk about the FLOT Line - the Forward Line of Troops - FLOT. That means there are ten unique problem-solving devices given in the Scripture that can act as a main line of resistance in your soul if you will learn them and use them. That main line of resistance can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Adversity is inevitable, but stress is optional. Stress is what you do yourself. Adversity is what circumstances do to you. Learning and using a FLOT line in your soul, ten unique problem-solving devices, is a way that a Christian can advance in God's plan. We like to talk about that on this radio show. Let me remind you of something else. We have printed material that's available free of charge. Go to our website at rickhughesministries.org (not Richard Hughes ministries - that's not us) where you will find a list of our books that we make available. A new one that we've come out with within the last year is called *Life's Toughest Years*; it deals with young people. If you have a grandchild or child who is dealing with tough times, you may want to order that book. Drop us a note, email us, or order it from the website and we'll be glad to send it to you free of charge. On the FLOT Line we like to talk about the dynamics of the Christian life. Today we'd like to talk about the stages of life. There's the conception stage, when your mom and dad conceived you. Then there's the birth stage, when you came into this world screaming and kicking and crying. The infant stage, when you advance from breastmilk to solid food. The youth stage, this is a troubled stage where you have to be taught, admonished, disciplined, instructed in authority (if you don't instruct a child in authority and if they don't adhere to authority orientation, then you have a very troubled adult). Then you go from the youth stage to the adult stage, this is the productive stage. Then eventually to the dying stage, where we move off the stage and someone takes our place. The living stage and the dying stage are critical for us to understand. It's in the living stage that we first develop our mentality and that gives us a formatted soul. Your soul has mentality and your soul has volition. You have to format your soul to understand what you are going to do and how you are going to do it. That means you have to be able to think, you have to be able to be logical, you have to be able to reason, you have to be able to comprehend, you have to have a formatted soul. This requires words because you think in terms of words. You have to learn words in the infant stage, develop that vocabulary in the youth stage, and then as an adult be able

to put those words together and use them. This is where we develop our mentality that gives us the formatted soul. We begin to process information in the living stage and store information in our stream of consciousness where we can recall. That's how we live life as a Christian - we must be able to recall Scripture, recall things that we've learned in the past. That's why repetition is important sometimes. Sometimes you hear me repeat. It's important so that you can recall. No soldier in the military ever learned how to march without having repetition. If they took him out on the parade ground and simply showed him one time, he wouldn't get it. So over and over, every day they practice marching until they can do it in their sleep. This is the way the Christian life is. We have to have some repetition until we understand exactly what it is we need to do. The soul, that part of you that will reside forever, is where your mentality and your volition exist. The Bible says this about the soul. In Matthew 16:26, *"What good would it do for someone to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul?" Or what could anyone give in exchange for their soul?* Your soul is your most valuable asset because it is your soul that lives forever. *"This is what the Lord says, [listen to it carefully] 'Stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls.'* But they said, *'We will not walk in that way!'"* (Jeremiah 6:16). **The my-way-highway is the way most people prefer to walk. Using their volition to do what they want to do instead of submitting their volition to the plan of God.** There is another highway called the Thy-way-highway, as a friend of mine put it. The Thy-way-highway or the my-way-highway, so it's a fork in the road. You'll come to that fork sometime in your life and you must decide, 'Am I going to go to the left or am I going to go to the right?' The Bible talks about what it means to go to the left and the disaster that comes from that, and the Bible talks about going to the right, such as the Lord Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of the Father. You have to make a choice. You can go down that my-way-highway using your volition or you can go the Thy-way-highway using your volition also. It's up to you. Your life will be a series of choices and decisions. You will be known all your life maybe by just a few decisions that you make. In regards to the soul, it is preserved by believing in Christ. This is stage one of life for every living creature, the entrance into God's plan for you by receiving Christ as your Savior. Jesus our Lord said, *"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they may have life, and might have it abundantly"* (John 10:10). This is what the Lord Jesus Christ offers you. He offers you eternal life and He offers you an abundant life in time - eternal life in eternity and an abundant life in time. The simple act of faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ is the door into eternal life. That's why the Bible says, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding [in other words, you won't understand it, you try to figure it out, but you won't get it]. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths"* (Proverbs 3:5-6). **Trust in the Lord. A lifestyle of trust is demanded if you are going to live for the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't lean to your own understanding - that's the my-way-highway. What seems to be the right way to you is not the right way.** Remember that. Also remember what Jeremiah said, *"This is what the Lord says, 'Stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths, and ask where the good way is and*

walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls.” (Jeremiah 6:16). So, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your path.”* The Bible goes on to say in Romans 10:9, *“if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* In Matthew 10:28, *“Do not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul; rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”* **The simple act of faith in the finished work of Christ is your door into eternal life. If we break your life down into stages, it starts with stage one. Stage one of your life is salvation by faith alone in Christ alone.** That's where it starts. Here's a good question. Will you feel it when it happens? The answer is no, it's not something that you feel. When I accepted Christ as my Savior, I didn't feel anything. I did pray and I did ask God to save me. I didn't see any angels. I didn't see flashes of light. I didn't hear a harp or anything. I just prayed and asked God to save me. It even took a few days to realize what exactly had happened. So you don't feel it. It's not necessarily a feeling. You may have some emotions and some emotions of relief knowing that you are not going to hell, knowing that God has forgiven you for your sin. There's nothing wrong with having emotional relief over that. But it's not really a feeling. It's an act of God the Holy Spirit justifying you by imputing to you the righteousness of Jesus Christ. **When you receive Christ as your Savior, God the Holy Spirit will impute to you the righteousness of Jesus Christ and this is what allows you to have a relationship with God.** In 2 Corinthians 5:21, *“God made Him [that's Jesus Christ, His anointed Son] who had no sin [that's right, He never sinned at all, never in His whole life] to be sin for us, so that in Him [through Him, because of Him] we might become the righteousness of God.”* God has absolute righteousness. The only way to have fellowship with God is to have equal righteousness. Our Lord Jesus Christ had that equal righteousness; He never sinned. His righteousness is given to us at faith in Christ. He took our sin, He gives us His righteousness. Again, 2 Corinthians 5:21, *“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him [through Him] we might become the righteousness of God.”* Now that righteousness that He distributes to you, that He gives to you at faith in Christ, is not taken back - not if you sin, not if you fail. It's not like I'll give it to you for little while and as soon as you mess up I'll take it back. That's not what the Bible says. The Bible is clear, Christ said, *“I will never leave you, I will never forsake you”* (Hebrews 13:5). *“I give to them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of My Father's hand. My Father, who gave them to Me, is greater than all; and no one can pluck them out of My Father's hand”* (John 10:28-29). It's not like God says, ‘Okay you messed up, I saw you do that sin, I'm taking back the righteousness My Son gave you.’ This is not the way it goes. You didn't get saved by being good and you don't keep being saved by being good. The Bible says, *“For by grace are you saved through faith; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest anyone should brag about it”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). If you think a person gets saved because he quit sinning and does good, then you are going to think that a person can keep salvation by not sinning. People that are Christians sin all the time. That's why we have the rebound technique in the problem-solving devices. *“If we*

confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all of our unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). So yeah, we sin. You sin, you know you sin. Mental attitude sins probably being the biggest that there are. Sins of the mind: worry, fear, bitterness, jealousy, antagonism - these are all mental attitude sins. You can do that, but that doesn't mean you've lost the righteousness of Christ because you sinned. No, it doesn't mean that at all. The Lord said to Peter, *"before the rooster crows in the morning you are going to deny Me three times"* (Luke 22:34) and then Peter claimed he didn't even know Him. Yes, Christians sin, but God does not take back the righteousness of Christ which was distributed to you by means of the Holy Spirit. After I got saved, this is what happened to me. I accepted Christ as my Savior. I wandered around in the darkness for about a year and a half. I had a Bible and I read the Bible. I got information from people. I bounced from one place to another place trying to figure it all out. I didn't know exactly what I was supposed to do. I was just going with the flow. **After stage one, salvation, comes stage two - the Christian life. What do we do in stage two? Well, in 2 Peter 3:18, the Bible says we are to "grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."** And the Bible says that growth can only come by one method. 2 Timothy 2:15, *"Study to show yourself approved to God, rightly dividing the Word of truth."* So what am I supposed to study? Well, Hebrews 4:15, *"The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit, and of the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of thoughts and intents of the heart."* I am to study the Bible if I want to grow in the grace and the knowledge my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Why the Bible? Because that's where all of the relevant information is about Jesus Christ. That's where the apostles wrote about who Jesus was and what He did. That's where it says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). If I'm going to represent Christ, I have to learn to think like Christ. How can I learn to think like Christ if I don't study in the Bible - what He did and what He said? The information that I need is in the Bible and I'm to study the Bible so that I can be approved to God. If I have to be approved, can I be disapproved? Yes, by misrepresenting God. Allow me to tell you something right here, warn you of something. If you misrepresent God, you are creating a terrible problem. Misrepresenting God means you don't know what you are talking about, or you are giving somebody the wrong information. Maybe you mean well, maybe you are concerned and maybe you tell them, 'I want you to go to heaven (this is a goofy scenario but I'll make it anyhow), I want you to have eternal life, so you should quit smoking and quit drinking and never use a cuss word again and you'll go to heaven.' People mean well, but that's not it. That's not how you get the righteousness of Christ. That's not it at all. The Bible simply says, *"Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Acts 2:21). The Bible says, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved"* (Acts 16:31). The Bible says, *"He that believes that Jesus is the Son of God shall be saved"* (1 John 4:15). It is not giving up bad things that gets you saved - it is faith alone in Christ alone. You have to study and understand this so that you can talk about it to other people. Growth only comes by one means, studying God's Word. This growth can only be accomplished by means of the Holy

Spirit's ministry to you. It's the only way it's ever going to happen. Listen to what the Lord Jesus Christ said in the Scripture. In John 14:26, *"The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."* It's by means of the Holy Spirit that we learn and recall what we learn. That's why we have three mandates in the Bible that refer to the Holy Spirit. The first one is in Ephesians 5:18, *"Do not be drunk with wine, because that is excess, but be filled with the Holy Spirit."* The first mandate for you is to "be filled" - it's a command from God. He expects you to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We know you are sealed with the Holy Spirit at the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:12-13), that's when it happens, but the filling of the Holy Spirit is not the sealing of the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit is how we live the dynamics of the Christian life. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is the salvation guarantee that God is not going to take it back. He marks you, He seals you with the Holy Spirit. It is by means of the Holy Spirit that we learn and we recall what we learn. Again, Jesus said, He will teach you and bring to remembrance all the stuff I said to you. So, three things about the Holy Spirit. First of all, be filled with the Holy Spirit. Secondly, *"Do not quench the Holy Spirit"* (1 Thessalonians 5:19). The word to quench is the Greek word *sbennumi* and it means to suppress or stifle the Holy Spirit. The English word is quench, but the Greek word *sbennumi* means to suppress Him or stifle Him. That verb is what we call in the morphology of the passage a present active imperative. That's important because it means, in the present tense, we are to continually avoid suppressing the ministry of the Holy Spirit. That present tense verb is a durative, it means not today, not tomorrow, the next day or the next day - you are not to suppress the Holy Spirit. You are not to quench the Holy Spirit. The active voice says you produce the action of the verb by an act of your own volitional decision. When you decide not to sin, then you do not quench the Holy Spirit. The imperative mood is the mood of command, it means we are to continually avoid suppressing the ministry the Holy Spirit. It's your volitional decision that fulfills this mandate, the mood of command. Look, we still have a sin nature and will have a sin nature until we get a resurrection body. God knows you are going to sin. Everyone knows we're going to sin. No one is perfect. That's why we have rebound (problem-solving device #1). The way to recover the filling of the Holy Spirit after you sin is to rebound or use 1 John 1:9 where it says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing."* The third mandate in regards to the Holy Spirit, (1) be filled, (2) don't quench, (3) *"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption"* (Ephesians 4:30). Talking about grieving the Holy Spirit, the Greek verb *lupeo* means to make sorrowful or to offend by causing sorrow. This word, as well as the last word, is a present active imperative verb. Present tense, a durative, there never is a time that this is to happen. The active voice, you produce the action. The imperative mood is a command from God. Why do I use those Greek words and the Greek morphology structure like this? It's in the Bible. It's the Word of God. This is how you get down to the meat of the text. There never is a time when you are to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit. It's impossible not to because of your sin nature and so you must learn how to rebound. What we're saying here is, you

cannot and will not ever fulfill God's plan if you suppress and stifle the Holy Spirit. What does the Holy Spirit use? He uses the canon of Scripture and He uses the gift of pastor-teacher to direct your life to its full potential. Listen to Ephesians 4:11-15, *“so Christ Himself gave apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastor-teachers, to equip His people for the work of service, so that His body may be built up; until we all reach unity of the faith, the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. So that we no longer be infants, tossed to and fro by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching, by the cunning craftiness of people, and their deceitful scheming; instead, speaking the truth motivated by love, we grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him, who is the head, and that's Christ Jesus.”* There's a lot in that passage right there. First of all, He gave spiritual gifts. The two gifts that function today are evangelism and pastor-teacher. There are no more apostles because to be an apostle you had to have seen the resurrected Christ. There are no more prophets because we have a completed canon of Scripture. Everything you need to know or will know is there for you already, there's no need to prophesy, it's already there. We do have evangelists (I am an evangelist myself), and we do have pastor-teachers [*poimen-kai-didaskalos*]. Why do we have those? Well, it's my job to win people to Christ, and it's the pastor's job to take those people who have accepted Christ and lead them to maturity. The verse says in Ephesians 4:12, *“to equip the people for work of service.”* That's the ministry of the pastor-teacher - to explain God's Word and equip God's people *so that we all come to the unity of the faith in the knowledge of the Son of God, and we are no longer infants, tossed to and fro, back and forth by the waves* and all sorts of weird stuff that comes down the pipe. Without spiritual growth you stay an infant and you are not able to produce spiritual fruit. That's why Hebrews 5:11-14 says, *“We have a lot to say about this, but it's hard to make it clear, since you are no longer able to understand. In fact it's time you ought to be a teacher, you need someone to teach you again the elementary truths of God's Word all over because you need milk, not solid food. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. Solid food belongs to those who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”* That's where you have to go. That's where you must be. Advancing from a spiritual infant to a spiritually mature believer. I mean, gee-whiz, there's so much to say about this because our mission is to re-present Christ and to give the Gospel to a dying world by means of the empowering of the Holy Spirit and by means of the living Word of God. The living Word of God *is the power of God for salvation* (Romans 1:16). I hope you have been listening. I hope you've enjoyed the message. I hope you will contact us, stay in touch, let us hear from you. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Stages of Life - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 741 aired on November 3, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes, stay with us. It will be thirty minutes of motivation, inspiration, a lot of education, but absolutely no manipulation. We don't try to con anybody to do anything. We ask you to listen to us communicate the information you need to hear. If we can verify and identify the plan of God for your life, then you can orient and adjust to the plan if you'd like to do that, it's up to you. My job is not to convince you, to persuade you, my job is just to give you the facts. You have a volition, you choose, it's part of the format of your soul. The volitional responsibility of the soul is critical. *"Whatsoever a man sows, that he will also reap"* (Galatians 6:7). We have to make decisions every day of our life. The most critical decision we will ever make is, *"What think you of Christ?"* (Matthew 22:42). Is He the anointed Son of God or is He not? That's a question all of us have to answer. That's why the Bible says, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved"* (Acts 16:31). *"He that believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God"* (1 John 5:1). It is critical. It's the only way you'll ever get to heaven. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but by grace. That's the only way we'll get there. *"According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He sheds on us abundantly through [by means of] Jesus Christ our Lord, that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope [or confidence] of eternal life"* (Titus 3:5-7). Remember, God gave you two ends; one you sit with and one you think with. Success in life depends on which one you use; heads you win and tails you lose. A FLOT line - Forward Line of Troops - is a main line of resistance in the soul of a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ that stops the outside sources of adversity before they convert to the inside source of stress. Adversity is inevitable, but stress is optional if you will learn the ten problem-solving devices we talk about on this radio show: rebound (how to confess your sin), filling of the Holy Spirit (how to walk in the Spirit), the faith-rest drill (how to live by faith), grace orientation (accepting grace, using grace), doctrinal orientation or Biblical orientation (how to think like the Lord Jesus Christ), all of these give you a personal sense of destiny (the door you walk through and begin to live for the Lord, not for yourself), that's motivated by your personal love for God (the greatest virtue you could have), and it's expressed with impersonal love for others (just as God loved you, you can love others; not based on who they are, but based on who you are), all of this leads to sharing the happiness of God (problem-solving devices #9) and #10 being occupied with the person of Jesus Christ (replicating His life to those around you, re-presenting Christ to a dying world). We have those ten problem-solving devices on a bookmark; if you'd like one, write to us through our website - rickhughesministries.org - and we'll send you a bookmark. Don't send money. We're not asking you for money. The Lord always supplies; we wait on the Lord. This is not a trick to get money. If you'd like to have that bookmark, just ask, it would be great to put in your Bible. We started talking last week about the different stages of life. We talked about stage one and this is where you have to be saved. The beginning of the Christian life starts with stage one and that

is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. You might not feel it when it happens. The justification that takes place when you put your faith alone in Christ alone is not an emotional thing. It's a fact. *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Acts 2:21). So your journey with Christ begins with stage one - believing in Him, accepting Him as your Savior. Then it moves to stage two. After you believe in Christ, what comes next? We saw 2 Peter 3:18 about growing in grace. We saw where the Lord Jesus Christ said the Holy Spirit would come and be your Helper. We saw the mandates about don't be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit. We saw don't quench the Spirit, don't grieve the Spirit. And we saw the importance of the canon of Scripture. We deduced that without spiritual growth you would stay an infant in your Christian life and never be able to produce spiritual fruit, which is why God left you here, so you can do that. Advancing spiritually from being an infant believer to being a mature believer is not possible unless you are filled with the Holy Spirit, unless you have a clear understanding of what God requires. That's where the gift of pastor-teacher comes in. Sometimes people tell me, 'I don't need a pastor. All I need is a Bible. I can figure it out.' I doubt that. The Bible is a textbook not a novel. There's no doubt any of us could read the Bible and learn basic operating principles, but if we want to understand the mechanics of growth in Christian service then you need a well-qualified pastor, not a spiritual cheerleader. Spiritual growth requires discipline and requires sacrifice. God uses people that are prepared. Particularly people who know the languages because it was not written in English, it was written in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic. People that can do the isagogics, people that can do the exegesis, people that can explain verses to you and what they mean. Our mission is to learn it and then use it in our life; a concept called LAG: learn, apply and glorify God. Today we want to talk about stage three of the Christian life. **Stage three is when you move from time to eternity. It is critical that you understand this stage. Stage three starts with death or the exit resurrection, whichever one comes first.** As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you may have heard the term Rapture. The Rapture, or "exit resurrection" (the Greek word *exsanastasis*), is when members of the royal family of God leave this earth. Anytime a believer dies it's a victory in the Church Age because of what God has done. That's the victory we look forward to. Listen to what happens when you die without the exit resurrection, if you just die, which we're all going to die. 1 Corinthians 15:54, *"When this perishable [that's our human bodies] will put on the imperishable [that's our resurrection body] and this mortal [human] will put on immortality [eternal] then will come about the saying that is written, 'Death has been swallowed up as a result of victory.'"* Victory in Jesus Christ over death. If the Rapture takes place, that's a different thing. The same verse applies, we will have victory over death, but if the Rapture takes place then the Church will exit from earth, and not return until the Second Advent of Christ and then not again until after the Lord creates the new universe. So the exit resurrection is the final goal of the Church and God provides it in toto. Man cannot cause it, man cannot make it come to pass, man cannot cause the exit resurrection or the Second Advent, and we cannot convert the world because Christ has to come back. God's timing does not have anything to do with man's volition. Men across the world have to decide. The

sovereignty of God, the wisdom of God, the power of God will bring about the Rapture of the Church, the body of Christ, you and I. When that day occurs, no one knows. A lot of the weirdoes have tried to predict it, but the Bible clearly says no one knows when it will occur. Keep this in mind. Every believer gets a fair shake at the exit resurrection of the Church, at the Rapture, when we get a resurrection body. Both the dead in Christ and even those that are alive at the Rapture of the Church all get resurrection bodies almost simultaneously. But the eternal rewards and decorations that come are different for spiritually mature believers than for carnal believers. Paul says in regard to the exit resurrection in 1 Thessalonians 4:13 (this is stage three), *“We do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. 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 not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain 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.”* That's the exit resurrection, the Rapture of the Church, and it occurs at the end of the Church Age. All Church Age believers, both alive and dead, will join the Lord Jesus Christ in the air and no man knows the day or the hour of that. Meeting the Lord in a resurrection body will occur in the second heaven, the stellar universe, not on this earth. Jesus said in Revelation 22:12, *“I'm coming soon, and My reward is with Me, to decorate each one according to his accomplishments.”* Soon refers to the imminency of the Rapture that I'm speaking about, for there is no prophecy left to be fulfilled before it happens. This verse says that mature believers, which we call winner believers, will receive blessings for eternity at the Judgment Seat of Christ. This event can be called the big genuflect in the sky because after this comes the Judgment Seat of Christ, which results in tremendous differences among believers who have resurrection bodies. Yes, there is equality at this point, but in the future, mature believers will get rewards, immature believers will be minus rewards. So, the Judgment Seat of Christ follows in heaven while back on earth it is the Tribulation. Thank the Lord we will not be here through that. We will come back with our Lord at the end of the Tribulation and rule and reign with Him in His Second Advent, called the millennial reign of Christ. Many people look at the USA today and say, ‘The time is short, the Lord is about to come back. Look what's happening.’ It is true that there are a lot of crazy, weird, gross things happening in America. It is true that the Lord Jesus Christ could come back today, tomorrow or the next day. But you can't gauge the trends of history and determine that Christ is coming back. It doesn't work that way. The trends of history can tell you that America might be about the fall, that America may go under as a free nation, that we may turn into a socialist nation, or even be defeated by the communists, but that doesn't mean Christ is about to return. We have the exit resurrection, we have the Tribulation going on on earth, and we have the Judgment Seat of Christ in heaven where you and I will be. 2 Corinthians 5:10, *“For we must all appear before the*

judgment seat of Christ, that each one of us [that's members of the royal family of God] may receive what is due him [that's rewards] for the things accomplished while in this body, whether good or worthless." That's the evaluation that is going to take place for all of us; evaluation of our performance in the plan of God during our time on earth. **Every one of us has the same privilege and the same opportunity to execute the plan of God. If we live our life in the cosmic system, ignoring the plan of God, then we are going to lose out. If we live our life in God's plan then we have some reward.** Let me say it again, if you live your life in the cosmic system, it's worthless, it's evil (the Greek word *phaulos*). Any believer that lives in the cosmic system fails to fulfill the protocol plan of God. What is a cosmic system? It's not being filled with the Holy Spirit, it's letting your sin nature control you, it's abandoning the divine institutions and it's abandoning the plan of God. **If you fulfill the protocol plan of God, which is staying filled with the Holy Spirit, growing in grace, replicating Christ then that's called good** (the Greek word *agathos*), and the believer would receive rewards beyond his resurrection body. The loser, the one that did not grow in grace, the one that did not follow God's plan, will lose the decorations, lose the rewards. The mature believer, the winner, the one who fulfills the protocol plan of God will receive them. **The issue is your life for all eternity is now in the making - right now, today, as you listen to this show. Your day-to-day attitude toward Bible doctrine and toward your priorities will determine completely what will happen to you at the Judgment Seat of Christ.** It does take only one decision to get saved - believe in the Lord Jesus Christ - but it takes many decisions to receive these decorations, honors and rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. That's why we have it. The purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ is to evaluate each one of us for our time on earth between the time we got saved and the time we left. The question is, what did we do with the tremendous invisible assets given to us by the grace of God? Each one of us is going to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. We'll stand there alone, not with our children, not with our our mates, alone. We have to learn how to live our own life. We have to learn how to live alone and we have to learn how to die alone so we can stand alone in the resurrection body before the Lord Jesus Christ and give an account of ourselves. Here is the bottom line. **We are responsible for our own decisions. We are responsible. Volitional responsibility. Ignorance is no excuse before the Judgment Seat of Christ.** That won't fly. You had equal privilege and equal opportunity to know God's Word and apply it. There is no prophecy left unfulfilled before the exit resurrection can take place. It could take place today. All prophecy has been fulfilled. The Bible talks about it in Colossians 3:4, in 1 Corinthians 1:7, in 2 Thessalonians 2:1, and in Titus 2:13. The Rapture, or exit resurrection, could take place at any time, but all the events that I'm talking about have to occur in proper sequence. The Rapture and the Second Advent are not the same thing. They're not coterminous. Neither one can occur at any time during the Tribulation. The Rapture takes place before the Tribulation and the Second Advent of Christ takes place at the end of the Tribulation. The Tribulation begins when the Church is removed from the earth. The Tribulation is divided into two parts: the Tribulation and the great Tribulation. The main character in the Tribulation is called the antichrist - you

know, the 666 guy, the one who demands to be worshiped as God. You will not be here. You are not part of that. The Rapture takes place before the Tribulation. The Tribulation will end after seven years with a tremendous battle called the battle of Armageddon. (I have a book I can recommend for that. If you'd like to get the book *Armageddon*, just write to me and we'll send it to you free of charge.) It is not just a series of battles, but a world wide war. It's a military campaign involving an invasion into unfriendly territory in order to locate the enemy forces and kill them and bring them under slavery. This happens in the Middle East. It's a campaign composed of a series of battles in a specific geographical location - the Valley of Megiddo. It is fought in a chronological succession, simultaneous location. It is described in Zechariah 12:2-11 as the final battle of the Tribulation. Matthew 24:21, *"For there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall there be again. And unless these days had been cut short, no life would have been delivered; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."* In the Old Testament it is called Daniel's seventieth week (Daniel 9:20-27). That's where God told Daniel that the Jews would have seventy more weeks. Each day of the week represented one year, so there were 490 years left in their history. Daniel 9:24 says it will be a time for *"making atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to anoint the most holy"* which is the presentation of Jesus Christ as the God of Israel. That ended in the sixty-ninth week when they crucified Him. The seventieth week is the seven year period of the Tribulation. The book of Revelation fills in the details of the Tribulation that were not given to Daniel. But any attempt to correlate Biblical passages with contemporary events always leads to confusion when the dispensation aspect of God's plan gets ignored. The Tribulation cannot occur until the resurrection of the Church occurs. Our Lord Jesus Christ will come back. He will defeat His enemies at the battle of Armageddon and establish His millennial kingdom where He will rule and reign for 1000 years. Revelation 19:11-21, *"And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine white linen, were following Him on white horses. [hello, that's us] And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, that with it He may strike down the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.' And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, 'Come, assemble for the great supper of God; so that you may eat the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on the earth and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, small and great.' And I saw the beast and the king of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Christ who sat on the horse, and against His army. And the beast and the false prophet were defeated and seized [this is where they are put into the bottomless pit] and with him the false prophet who performed*

the signs in his presence, which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast [666] and they were thrown alive into the lake of fire and brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.” That's the Lord Jesus Christ at the battle of Armageddon. So we've locked up the beast and the false prophet, and then we have to take Satan. Revelation 20:1-3, *“I saw an angel come down from heaven, holding the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the abyss, and shut it up and sealed it over him, so that he could not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were complete; after these things he must be released for short time.”* Once he is released there will be one more final battle. Revelation 20:7-10, *“When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and he will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. They came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the city, and the devil who deceived them was then thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet were already there; and they will be tormented day and night forever.”* So when he gets out, all of these people who have not known satanic temptation, that were born during this thousand year period, many of them will buy into this war and again turn on the Lord Jesus Christ - even though He sits on his throne. This is the power of the devil to convince people that he alone is god. Satan is a great liar, he's a great convincer. This will happen. After this occurs, we have the Great White Throne of judgment. This is where the unbelievers are judged. Revelation 20:11-15, *“I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence the earth and heaven fled away. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from things which were written in the books, according to their production. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. And then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown in the lake of fire.”* Once that is over, this planet is done. Revelation 21:1-3, *“I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men.”* Jesus Christ's final words, Revelation 22:20, *“‘I'm coming quickly.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”* That's the third stage and it's coming soon. I hope you listened. You may have a lot of questions. I gave you a lot of information. Don't hesitate to write if you need me to answer them. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Volitional Responsibility

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 742 aired on November 10, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes, please stick around. It will be a time of motivation, inspiration, some education and no manipulation, no con games, not soliciting money, not asking you to join anything. We simply want to teach you some information that hopefully will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you can do that, then you have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. That's really up to you. My job is to be accurate, to get it correct, not to appeal to your emotions, not to get you fired up, not to solicit anything but give you information. We believe if God is in it, God pays for it, and thus we are here every Sunday morning same time, same station in your area. What an honor just to hear from you - letters, emails, some of you even call us on our 800-number or through our website rickhughesministries.org. We can provide you with past FLOT Line shows. If you call and order anything, be sure to speak slowly and leave a message if we don't get the phone. We also podcast this show now, so the FLOT Line is available on Spotify and other podcast apps. Thank you for listening and being a part of our show. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your encouragement. I love hearing from you. Remember that God gave you two ends; one of those ends you sit with and one of those ends you think with. Success in your life will depend on which one you use; heads you'll win and tails you'll lose. This show is about renovating your thinking, changing the way you think. Not thinking in terms of human viewpoint, but thinking in terms of divine viewpoint. That's why the Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). Learning to think like He thought requires that we learn the Scriptures. That's why Proverbs 2:10-11 says, *"When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge becomes pleasant to your soul; then discretion and understanding will guard and protect you."* It's there. It's for you. It's God's plan for you. The Bible says, *"Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). You will have to learn it. It's not going to jump off the pages into your mind. But if you spend time learning the Word of God and applying what you learn in your life then you can have the most phenomenal lifestyle as you replicate the thinking of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Yes, you are to think like He thought; not in terms of human viewpoint, but in terms of divine viewpoint. God's plan. Our Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated something to us that we all must understand. He demonstrated His volition to obey the Father. Our Lord Jesus Christ was born the God-man, undiminished deity and true humanity in one body forever. He is in heaven today seated at the right hand of the Father. He had volition. He could have decided not to do anything. He could have decided to sin, but He did not. He was the Lamb of God without spot, without blemish, the only one capable of satisfying the justice of God. But He had volition. We find volition in the Bible everywhere, beginning with Adam and Eve when God said you can have anything in this garden but don't eat of the tree right over there. That got misunderstood when Eve said we're not even to touch it. The prohibition was there and man's volition responded negatively. Man's volition said, No, I will. You and I have volition. We

are a product of what we choose. We can choose to sin and we can choose not to sin. What you choose is often based on what you think. If what you think is going along with your emotions then you may be emotionally out of control. Emotionally out of control means you are going to do something very stupid if you are emotionally out of control. Remember, bad decisions limit future options and stupid decisions get people hurt. **When you have to make a decision, don't make it based on emotions - make decisions based on what you think. The mind responds and the emotions just react.** Nothing wrong with emotions, they are wonderful, but if you're going to use a volitional decision, you must base it on truth or fact, not what you feel like you should do. The name of this study is "Volitional Responsibility." Volition under the law of volitional responsibility. Listen carefully, here it comes, self-induced misery is created by your own soul's volition. In other words, you have the potential to make yourself miserable. By making a stupid decision you can make other people miserable. Responsibility, as defined in Webster's dictionary, is the quality or the state of being responsible, such as a moral responsibility, legal responsibility, mental accountability, reliability, trustworthiness, something for which you are responsible. Your responsible behavior is usually seen with honesty and accountability. The concept is that God holds each one of us responsible for every decision that we make. We are responsible. You can't blame a crummy life on crummy parents. It doesn't work that way. You can't say, 'The reason my life is so bad is because I had bad parents.' A lot of us had bad parents. I don't even know who my father was. The only thing that delivered me from a crummy life is me accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior, getting under the ministry of a great pastor who taught me the Word of God, believing what I heard and applying it into my life to the best of my ability. That doesn't mean I never sin, it doesn't mean that at all. I had to learn how to rebound confess my sin, and then God was always faithful and just to forgive me. Volitional responsibility - what I'm talking about is each one of us is under the law of volitional responsibility. **Under the law of volitional responsibility we have to accept the consequences of our bad decisions. We don't have anybody to blame, nobody but ourself.** If you point the finger at somebody and say it's his fault, remember, there's three fingers pointing back at you. Try it. Point a finger and see if there's not three coming back. You are responsible for your decisions and no one else. We are to blame for our misery in our life most of the time. Some circumstances are beyond our control, but 99% of our suffering comes from our mismanagement of our personal relationships, our mismanagement of our personal health, our mismanagement of personal finances - that's where most of it comes from. The law of volitional responsibility applies in several categories. It applies in what you think. You have volition, you can think divine viewpoint or you can think human viewpoint, that's up to you. You can go to Dear Abby for your answers about how you should interact socially or you can go to the Word of God which says, stay away from fools and don't even talk to them because they're going to laugh at you. Do what you want to do, but there it is. Who do you go to for advice? I would advise you to go to the Book of Proverbs. If you go to the Book of Proverbs and read it a few times over, you will get some tremendous advice. But reading Dear Abby or Dear Lucille or Dear whoever it may be in

your local newspaper is not going to give you any divine viewpoint. You have to be in control of what you think. Think, not emote, not being emotional. Also you are responsible for your motivation. What motivated you to do this? Was it jealousy? Was it bitterness? Was it love? What was your motivation? The Bible says, *"If we love God, we will obey God and His mandates are not grievous"* (1 John 5:3). The number one functional motivation for any Christian is love for God. That's our number one motivation. That's why we obey him. *"If you love Me, you will obey Me"* (John 14:15). We are responsible for every decision that we make. We make hundreds of decisions every day. I decided where to eat lunch today. I decided what sweater to put on this morning in a bitter cold Southern morning with the wind blowing. We are responsible for decisions. I bet you've made a lot of decisions today. We're responsible for the actions that come off of those decisions. Can't blame someone else. We did it. It was us. Yes, it was us. We have to take responsibility for what we think, what motivates us, the decisions we make and the actions we take. The end result can be self-induced misery if we have negative or wrong thinking. We can self impose misery. Negative thinking includes all sorts of wrong mental attitudes, all forms of bitterness and jealousy and implacability and arrogance. All these things that you react to in life by your thinking. You have a term, I won't use it on the radio, but you know the term for when you get angry, "p.o.'d" people call it. You know what I'm talking about? That's a result of your thinking when you are reacting, not responding. You can respond with forgiveness or you can react with bitterness. It all depends on what you are thinking and the motivation behind it. Negative thinking leads to negative deeds. Negative or wrong motivation is also self-imposed misery. You want to make yourself miserable? Think the wrong thing, do the wrong thing, be motivated to do the wrong thing and you can get miserable. Self-imposed misery comes from wrong decisions in our volition. This misery can happen long before we make any decision if we think wrong. You see, you have to think it before you do it. You are a product of what you think. Some people just emote and don't think about anything and let their emotions go off. This is a dangerous person who doesn't consider the results of his actions. Listen to what the Bible says. Negative or wrong decisions are self induced misery; that's where it comes from. Negative or wrong actions - now we're talking about what you do, not what you think - negative or wrong actions are classified in two ways: you deliberately did something wrong or you impulsively did something wrong. Deliberate self-induced misery and impulsive, which is usually self-gratification and brings self-induced misery as well. You deliberately disobeyed God or you impulsively gratified yourself and that caused you to have some misery. Let's look at some versus in case we get confused here. Here are a few verses for you. Proverbs 22:8, *"He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of God's wrath will be ready."* Sowing wickedness is maligning. If you want to look at seven sins that God hates, look at Proverbs 6:16-19, they're all right there. Three of them are mental attitude sins, three of them are sins of the tongue and one of them is an overt sin called murder. You might be surprised, but slander, maligning, gossip, judging is sowing wickedness and it reaps trouble. God doesn't need your help in judging anybody. God doesn't need your help in maligning, slandering, criticizing, backbiting. That is

trouble in the making. You are responsible for your decisions. So if you wind up miserable, if you wind up getting kicked out of some place because you couldn't keep your mouth shut, you did it. Galatians 6:7, *“Do not be deceived, God will not be mocked; whatever a person sows, this he will also reap.”* So don't listen to the liar, Satan, he's the master liar, he's always been a liar. The Lord Jesus Christ identified him as a liar. Satan will deceive you, he has deceptive abilities. If you buy into the lie, you wind up mocking God and you wind up being the fool God talks about in Romans 1:16-19. People that are fools mocked God and He turned them over to their own desires because they believed the created one rather than the Creator. Whatever a person sows he will reap. You sow trouble, you are going to reap trouble. In Hosea 8:7, *“They who sow to the wind, will reap the whirlwind.”* I use an illustration of a hurricane or tornado and call it the cosmic vortex. Imagine spinning around the invisible zeitgeist, the spirit of the times, spinning around like a vortex sucking people into it; people that believe the lie and it just takes them down the road and dumps them out in the middle of nowhere. Life is ruined, life is destroyed because they believed the lie. The biggest lie is 'I love you.' That's the biggest lie you'll ever hear. Be careful when someone tells you, I love you. Sometimes it's nothing but manipulation. *They who sow to the wind are going to reap the whirlwind.* Colossians 3:25, *“He who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong that he has done, and there is no partiality with God.”* God is not going to let one guy off and judge another guy. I don't care who you are, when you mess up, when you go against the Word of God, when you deliberately make a volitional decision that is negative to His Word, you are responsible for what happens. *He who does wrong, will receive the consequences of that wrong.* In Proverbs 25:16, *“If you find candy, eat just enough, because too much of it will make you vomit.”* That's a bad decision, gorging yourself on sweets. In Proverbs 13:20, *“The one who walks with wise men will be wise, but whoever walks with the fool will suffer misery.”* It's very possible that you can make yourself miserable, you can have self-induced misery by hanging out with the fool. Who is the fool? It is the person that ignores the Word of God, a person that doesn't believe the Word of God, a person that turns his back on the Word of God. You must be careful who you hang out with because the Bible clearly says that it will corrupt you if you hang out with the wrong people because they will influence the way you think. Once they influence the way you think (politically, socially, spiritually) you are dead in the water, you're a dead duck. Then they will dump you like used whatever. A lot of people don't love you, they don't care for you, they just want to use you. You will figure this out as you get older. I always tell young people, when I'm talking to them, when you are 15 you are worried about what people think about you. When you get to be about 25 you don't give a rip what they think about you. When you get to be about 65 you'll find out that none of them thought about you anyhow. Keep that in mind. *“He who walks with wise men will be wise.”* My suggestion - stay away from fools, fools that ignore the mandates of the Word of God, fools that make light of the mandates of the Word of God, fools that will destroy you and laugh about it - stay away from them. A lot of suffering comes to Christians because they are confused and they lack Biblical principles. They don't understand Bible doctrine. They don't understand life. **If you**

are suffering from your own wrong decisions - I can make this clear now, get this straight - if you are suffering because of some stupid decision you made, no prayer in the world is going to make it go away. You are going to have to go to the solutions that are found in the Word of God, are found in the Bible. Yep, you are going to have to go to that, you are going to have to go to rebound (problem-solving device #1), *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* If you are suffering from a bad decision and you want it to go away, the first step is to rebound, confess the sin to God. The second step is to forget it because God forgets when He forgives. Satan will bring it up to you over and over again to make you feel like a jerk, to make you feel like God doesn't love you, to make you feel like you're a loser. But, if God was through with you, He'd bring you home. You and I both have made many bad decisions and He has not taken us home yet - He will soon, I'm sure, but not yet. When we fail, we rebound our sin, we get up, we don't look back, we move forward. Many wrong decisions that people make can even result in mental illness, it can lead them to psychoses, neuroses and sociopathic behavior. It happens because they can't deal with the guilt or they can't deal with mental attitude jealousy or the hatred or the bitterness. Here's a little insight for you. We're all born with genetic handicaps. We have parents, if you know your parents, genetically, you know maybe what their flaws were - we have genetic handicaps. For example, if your parents were alcoholics, you know you shouldn't drink because you'll have a tendency to fall into the same trap. Genetics, we look at that and we say, 'Okay, I'm not going to drink. My parents were alcoholics so I'm not going to touch it.' **We are born with genetic handicaps, genetic flaws, but we acquire environmental or volitional handicaps. How do we do that? By putting things in our life that don't belong there.** This all adds up to the first cause of suffering in your life. Genetically you have this tendency to go in a certain direction, but environmentally you chose differently. One of them you inherited, the other one you chose. A volitional handicap is you handicapping yourself by a sin that you deliberately chose to do. A genetic handicap is something that you were born with. Does that make sense? **Many wrong decisions we make from a position of weakness in our own life - you know, we're not in fellowship with God, we're not under the filling of the Holy Spirit, we're not listening to the Word of God, we're not thinking divine viewpoint** - when we make decisions from a position of weakness, we are out there on our own, we're standing alone on an island. We don't have any wisdom, we don't have any knowledge, we don't have insight and discernment (Proverbs 2:10-11 talks about that). You are in a position of weakness and can eventually result in mental illness. Bad decisions can absolutely ruin a person's life. Being arrogant and self-centered is where you make some stupid, selfish, self-righteous decision, and one decision leads to another decision and the practice of making thousands and thousands of wrong decisions. Under the law of volitional responsibility you and I must accept the consequences for every bad decision we make. That's why the Bible says, *"The ones that the Lord loves He chastens, and He scourges with the whip"* (Hebrews 12:6). When we sin, the first issue is rebound. Get sin out, get rid of it, name it to God because if you don't then the hammer is going to fall. Maybe that's why you are suffering

today. You've sinned and you haven't dealt with it before the Lord, you haven't confessed your sin to God, you haven't rebounded your sin, and you are miserable and you are getting whacked on the head every day. May I suggest you use problem-solving device #1, rebound your sin. The Bible says, "*He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" Then may I suggest you renovate your thinking (problem-solving device #2). "*Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think*" (Romans 12:3). Many of these bad decisions destroy people. Under the law of volitional responsibility we must accept the consequences of our own stupid, bad, dumb decisions. Every human being must take responsibility for their decisions. We're not here to blame other people because we're miserable. We're not here to blame other people for our unhappiness and our suffering. We take full responsibility based on our own decisions. Our unhappiness, our suffering may be related to who we associate with or what we did or what our motives were or what our functions in life were. Keep that in mind. **We are responsible for our motives, our associations, our activities. God holds you accountable.** Many wrong decisions come from arrogance in your own soul. To protect us from being arrogant and destroying our lives, God gives us authority structure of parents, pastors, coaches, bosses, police officers - forms of authority. They are there to keep you from self-destructing. Many wrong decisions come from a position of weakness. When you ignore authority, you challenge authority, you can eventually even harm yourself, go into mental illness, self-centeredness, selfishness, self-righteousness, and making many, many bad decisions. **The bottom line is this, you have to control what you think, you have to control what you do, or you are going to wind up being a slave to circumstances in your life - self-pity, bitter, blaming all your hard times on somebody else.** Arrogance makes an eighteen year old person think he's wise enough to handle life without any insight from his parents - that is stupid. Who does he go to for insight? His arrogant friends who are in the same boat. The innocent often suffer with the guilty, being associated with someone else who makes a bad decision. Did you know that? **Bad decisions limit future options, stupid decisions get people hurt. Man manufactures his own problems and resulting suffering. God manufactures the solutions and blessings in the middle of the suffering.** The wrong decision - sin - brings divine discipline. Rebound removes the discipline and restores fellowship with God. That is just a little bit on volitional responsibility. God holds you accountable for your decisions. I hope you have been listening. I hope you have been paying attention because part of what may be going on in your life today is a series of bad decisions that have backed you into a corner and you see no way out. There is a way out - it starts with rebound. Then go to renovating your thinking and acquiring the mind of Christ. The Word of God is the solution, the Holy Spirit gives you the power - use your volition to take the opportunity. Until next week, same time, same place, this is your host, Rick Hughes here with the FLOT Line every Sunday morning, thanking you for listening and praying that you will come back and join us next week. Thank you.

The Divine Advantage

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 743 aired on November 17, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm Rick Hughes, your host, thanking you for tuning in once more. Remember, we simply have 30-minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and we do that without any manipulation. We don't try to con people. We're not soliciting money from you, we're not asking you to join anything. We simply have some information that may help you verify as well as identify God's plan for your life. If you're willing to act on that information and you can orient and adjust then you'll be a lot better off, I promise you. Remember, God gave us two ends; one to sit with and one to think with. Success in life depends on which one you use; heads you'll win, tails you'll lose. Today we want to talk about the divine advantages that we have available to us. I just got back from a Spiritual Emphasis Weekend Retreat for wounded warriors and their families where I presented this same material. It was a great opportunity to talk to the men and women who serve our country. America has had an all volunteer military for a while now. We do not have the draft anymore, and men and women such as those I met, freely chose to serve their country. Non-serving Americans may not even notice or care about their sacrifice or what they're doing until they need them. The bottom line is, without a strong military we could not survive as a free nation. Those men and women that I spoke to made a choice and the benefits and rewards of their choice could be great and the cost of the sacrifice could be even greater, as it was in some cases. In the end they can say with pride, 'I did my duty to the best of my ability.' Like them, there are many choices in life that we have to make. God equips each one of us with a brain and the ability to choose. We have volition, the free will He gave us - volition. He did not make us into little bitty automatons that run around doing His bidding. **God gave us free will. We have choices to make. Sometimes we use logic, sometimes we use reason, sometimes we use faith to make those choices. In the end everyone of us, myself included, are responsible for the decisions that we make. Three things you need to remember about those decisions: (1) Bad decisions limit all future options. (2) Stupid decisions get people hurt. (3) Trusting your instinct or your impulse in a major decision is a sure way for you to mess up.** Again, God gave you two ends; one to sit with, one to think with. You must learn to use the head part - heads you win, tails you lose. On this radio show I might ask you to make another choice today. Not one that would require you to join up, fess up, give up, but one that might require you to act on faith and consider the opportunity and the consequences. You see, not all Americans are willing to serve the country in military service and not all humans are willing to serve their God. Each one of us must make a personal choice. That's where our volition comes into play. You and I have met people born with a silver spoon in their mouth that gives them an advantage and a social standing. Having an advantage in life is one way unqualified people get ahead. Yes, they do. **I can tell you on this show how to have a divine advantage in life that will give you discernment and understanding in all of your endeavors. That's what life requires. It requires wisdom. Wisdom is discernment and insight.** If we don't have discernment, if we don't have insight we

get taken advantage of by forces greater than our own capabilities to discern. Wisdom is a critical component in your life if you are going to take advantage of the divine advantage God gives you. But here is the catch. Wisdom is not inherited from your parents. It must be acquired in your own soul. It can be divine wisdom which comes from the Word of God. It could be relative wisdom which comes from what some joker thinks should be or not be the truth. Without some type of resource, none of us would even make it through the week, much less through life. This is where God offers us His divine resources. He offers His divine resources to each one of us. If you want to know why, His motivation to do this is pretty simple - He loves you. Maybe you have never heard anybody say that to you, but God loves you. I know, I've been a jerk and someone said God loved me and it was shocking. How could God love me? I'm an idiot. Look at the stupid things I've done. But He loves you, I promise you. The Bible says "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*" (John 3:16) - that's love personified. When He sent His Son, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the ultimate penalty for our sins so we wouldn't have to pay it - that's true love. "*What greater love does a man have than this, that he lay down his life for his friends*" (John 15:13). The Lord Jesus Christ loves you, that's why He went to the cross to pay for your sin. What a wonderful divine advantage we have there - He loves us. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 10:2, "*A wise man's heart directs him to the right, but the foolish man's heart directs him to the left.*" This is not a political statement. This is talking about your choices. Sometimes you go to the left and sometimes go to the right. To the left would be the my-way-highway, the relative wisdom way, not using God's divine wisdom and going the Thy-way-highway. You can make some pretty dumb decisions in your life, as I've done. You can't afford to do that. You've only got a little bit of time. You can't buy more time. You don't want to come to the end of your life and look back and, like a vapor trail across the sky, see it disappear from history. I can assure you nobody is going to stand around and worry about where you went when the Lord brings you home. But you don't want to go home with regret, and you don't want to go home ashamed. You want to go home having done a good job. It's your choice. It's up to you. These divine resources that I'm speaking of start with, first of all, the free gift of salvation. That's a win-win situation. It doesn't cost you anything, but it does require you wanting to know the truth - you want to know His love and His forgiveness, and requires that you have the faith to trust Him. If you want to take advantage of the divine resource of forgiveness of sin, you must have a desire to know His love and forgiveness and the faith to trust Him. He offered this forgiveness freely since we are His creation and there are no strings attached. The Bible clearly says, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved*" (Acts 16:31). Be saved from what? Ecclesiastes 1:4, "*A generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.*" What I'm saying is that you're going to pass away someday, I'm going to pass away someday, but the earth will continue until God says that's it. So we all have our niche, our time in history. Saved from what? What are we saved from? *Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.* We are saved from the Lake of Fire. Hebrews 9:27, "*It is appointed unto men once to die but after that death comes judgment.*" The judgment is described in Revelation

20:11-15 (this is not hypothetical, this is literal), *“I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence the earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne of God, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. And then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown in the lake of fire.”* Listen carefully as I explain this to you. When you're born, your name is put in the Lamb's book of life. If you die without accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior, your name is blotted out and you have died the first death. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you are never said to be dead, you're asleep in Christ. So you have to be born twice or you're going to die twice is the way it goes. That's the way God made it. Here we have people that did not believe in Jesus Christ - they are unbelievers. Since their name is not in the book of life, they are going to be given an opportunity by the justice of God to present their case of why they should be allowed to come into heaven because of their deeds, their good deeds, they were good. Remember the Bible says, *“There are none that are good no, not even one”* (Romans 3:10). *“All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag before God”* (Isaiah 64:6). Remember this. So here is unbeliever, standing up and saying, ‘What about this? What about that? Look what I did. I gave to the church, I tithed, I sang in the choir, I helped little old ladies cross the street, I bought Girl Scout cookies.’ That doesn't work. That's not salvation. *“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). *“He that believes Jesus is the Christ is born of God”* (1 John 5:1). And so when their name is not in the book of life, then the various books of their good deeds are opened and they are judged from that and they are found lacking. They cannot equal the righteousness of God. The only way you can have eternity with God is to be equally righteous. Listen to what the Bible says, *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us, so we may be made the righteousness of God through Him [through Christ]”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). When receiving Him as our Savior, His righteousness is imputed to us and we have equal righteousness with God because we are in Christ Jesus. He took our sin and gave us His righteousness. Thus God can bless you and welcome you into the royal family by faith. And so if their name was not found written in the Lamb's book of life they are thrown into the Lake of Fire. Again in Revelation 20:15, *“If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life [the ones who rejected Christ], they are thrown into the lake of fire.”* This is the second death. I don't know if you got this, but those who were in Hades were brought out of Hades and judged; those in hell were brought out of hell and judged and then thrown into the Lake of Fire. Think about that. If you die apart from Jesus Christ, you go to hell and you await this final judgment. Then you are brought up before the Great White Throne. Your name is not in the Lamb's book of life and your production doesn't equal God's righteousness, so then you're thrown into the Lake of Fire, where Satan and the

fallen angels will already be. That doesn't sound very inviting does it? So when I say, saved from what, you're saved from this. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved or delivered from this judgment - you won't be there. That's a marvelous thing. That's a divine advantage. This judgment is not because anyone was bad or anybody misbehaved. What it's about is, they were born with Adam's original sin imputed to them. Romans 5:12, "*Just as through one man sin entered into the world, and then death by sin, and now death spreads to all, because all have sinned.*" **A divine advantage - our sins were judged on the cross [therefore sin is not an issue in salvation] and are forgiven through the use of rebound.** Romans 5:8, "*God demonstrated His love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" Problem solved. A free gift from God. In Luke 18:9-14 we find in the temple, a Pharisee praying; he's not really praying, he's braying (like a jackass would bray). He's patting himself on the back and telling God what a great guy he is. How he fasts, how he does this and how he does that. Hoping that he's impressing God with all of his good deeds. Then it talks about the publican who came in and said, "*God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*" And Jesus said, that's the man who went to heaven right there, the one who asked for forgiveness. Problem solved. A free gift from God. How do I know it's a free gift? Romans 6:23, "*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" What a divine advantage that is. **Divine advantage number one: salvation.** I am delivered from my sin and the penalty of my sin. I'm set free from the slave market of sin. I'm no longer under control of my sin nature. Now God the Holy Spirit lives in me and I can make a choice, I can choose to live in fellowship with God or I can choose to let my sin nature dominate me and control me and, even as a Christian, live in sin. That won't get you very far because the Bible says in Hebrews 12:6 that God chastens those that He loves and judges and disciplines those He loves. When we get into sin and don't use problem-solving device #1: rebound, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing*" - if we don't do that then we set ourselves up for divine discipline because God loves us. Why does He discipline you? He doesn't want you to self-destruct. You have the ability to destroy your life with an acquired flaw. You can acquire flaws that will destroy you. You will constantly make bad decisions until eventually you box yourself in and get frustrated and maybe consider ending it all because you think you have no hope and no life. God doesn't want that for you. God wants you to have a wonderful, profitable life in Christ. The divine advantage of knowing Jesus Christ as Savior is wonderful. There's a second advantage too. The Bible says, anyone who receives Christ as Savior, they soon learn, like I learned, that we still possess the ability to sin. We still fail from time to time, sometimes too much. We have to learn this. The Bible says God recognizes this and makes provision for our failure. Let's answer this question. What exactly is sin? Well, it comes in three ways that I'm aware of. Something you think - you can commit a sin in your brain, you can sin seated in the pew at church. If you have thoughts of anger, bitterness, resentment, implacability, hostility - those are mental attitude sins. Lust is a mental attitude sin. Jealousy and hatred are mental attitude sins. There are also sins of the tongue: gossip, slander, maligning, criticizing, backbiting - these are sins of the tongue.

Then there are the overt sins like drunkenness, fornicating, stealing and murder - these are sins as well. Can a Christian commit murder? You better believe he can, look at David in 2 Samuel 16. He had Uriah the Hittite murdered after he committed adultery with Uriah's wife, Bathsheba. Sure, Christians can do some pretty goofy, stupid things when we get out of fellowship with God. If we are sinning, we are breaking fellowship with God, we are quenching the Holy Spirit, we are grieving the Holy Spirit, and we set ourselves up for divine discipline. **But, if we will recognize the sin and confess (rebound) the sin to God the Father through prayer then we can be restored to fellowship, put back in fellowship - this is the second divine advantage. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** This is the secret to the Christian life. But nobody ever told me that; here I was a new Christian, a year and a half into my Christian life, not knowing what to do. Reading the Bible, going to different Bible studies, going to different churches, going around in a circle. I had the Gospel right, I understood what it meant to be saved, but I did not understand the mechanics of the Christian life. You must come to realize there are mechanics, meaning a right thing has to be done in a right way or it is wrong. A right thing done in a wrong way is wrong. A wrong thing done in a wrong way is wrong. A right thing done in a right way is right. There are mechanics. If you intend to serve God you must do it through the filling of the Holy Spirit. That's why Ephesians 5:18 gives you the mandate, *"be filled with the Spirit."* You cannot be Spirit filled with sin in your life. Sin quenches the Holy Spirit. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit. You must admit the sin, confess the sin and then God the Father is faithful and just to forgive you. This doesn't mean that you are going to stay filled the Spirit twenty-four hours a day. You may sin at 8 o'clock, confess that sin at 8:05, and you may sin again at 9 o'clock and you'll have to confess that sin. On a particularly bad day you may have to confess sin eight, ten, or twelve times; but whatever you do, don't wait until you go to bed at night to do it. Don't look back through the day and say, 'O Lord, this morning I sinned at 8:02,' at 10 PM that night. If you sinned at 8:02 AM, you quenched the Holy Spirit at 8:02 AM, and went through your whole day without the filling of the Holy Spirit, without the power of God in your life. Then you're going to go to bed at night and ask Him to cleanse you and fill you so you can sleep good? That's not the way to live the Christian life. You need to keep up with your sin. When you're aware of sin, name it immediately. Then He is faithful and just to forgive us. Some people think that when they sin God will disown them, and that's not true. The Bible is very clear in Luke 15 about the prodigal son. The prodigal son wandered away from home, wasted his money on riotous living, got under divine discipline, and finally came to his senses and went home and confessed his sin to his father. His father took him back freely. The father loved him and killed the fatted calf and put a ring on his finger. He was still his son. The father didn't go chase him down because the father knew he had to learn it the hard way. That's the way some people are. I'm probably that way. You can learn the easy way or you can learn the hard way. Are you one of those people that has to learn the hard way? Even though you know you shouldn't do something you do it anyhow just to see if you get away with it. You are not going to get away with it, I promise you. **The divine**

advantage of the filling of the Holy Spirit guarantees you the power of God in your life, it guarantees you the rewards of God in eternity, it guarantees you the ability to replicate the life of Christ, it guarantees you complete happiness in time and eternity - but only through the filling of the Holy Spirit. What does the Holy Spirit use? He uses Bible doctrine, He uses the Word of God. As you learn the Word of God in your local church under your pastor and you apply to your life the principles and the precepts that he teaches and you learn, then you begin to replicate the life of Christ. This brings God much glory. That's the objective of the Christian life. Divine advantage number one is salvation, number two is the filling of the Holy Spirit. **Now divine advantage number three - rearm with the Word of God.** The secret to keep from becoming a battlefield casualty in the spiritual life is to refit when you fail and rearm when you need it, and that's the local church where you study and grow under a real qualified pastor. People write to me and ask if I know if there's a local church in their area. A lot of times I may know or I may not know, but I know where you can get information. I know where you can get DVDs and MP3s and study just like I do every morning. You can sit down with the Bible, a notebook and a cup of coffee and away you go. Turn it on, study, take notes, learn and apply the Word of God in your life. That's the way I've kept up with my pastor for years since I don't live in the same town. I get the information and I study it and I write it down and I review it and I apply into my life. I refit every morning. Rearm my life every morning. That's the job of the pastor - to rearm you for your daily battles in life. He does that by teaching you God's amazing problem-solving devices. What that does is change the way you think. The Bible says you have to change the way you think. Romans 12:3, *"Stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you should; but think in terms of sanity, as God has assigned to every one of us a different way of thinking from His Word."* That's an attitude adjustment. An attitude adjustment is renovating thinking or simply learning to think like Christ thought. Philippians 2:5 says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* The key to understanding this is that the Lord Jesus Christ acted from the motivation of humility. *"He humbled Himself, made Himself of no reputation"* (Philippians 2:8). He never reacted to bitterness. He never reacted to unfair circumstances. Our Lord Jesus Christ never lost His temper, never did anything foolish. You can live the same way if you will renovate your thinking. **Learning the Word of God, learning divine viewpoint, beginning to operate on divine viewpoint will give you the resiliency in your life with this new mindset to keep pressing on, to keep using the divine advantage of wisdom, insight, discernment and knowledge from the Word of God.** The Bible says in Luke 11:28, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Voice, and who keep it."* Our God is looking for a few good men and women. The question is, will you be one of them? Will you take these divine advantages: salvation, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and the ability to renovate your thinking through learning and applying the Word of God? Will you take advantage of these? Will you glorify Jesus Christ to the maximum in your life on a daily basis? That's my prayer. I hope you'll continue listening and I hope you'll come back next week, same time, same place. Until then, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for being with us today.

The Stability of a Nation

Transcript of FLOT Line Episodes 744 and 745 aired on November 24, 2019 and December 1, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes we are going to bring you some information, motivation, education, without any type of manipulation. That's right, no con games here. The whole objective of the FLOT Line is to give you an opportunity to make a decision. To give you information that will verify as well as identify what God's plan for you and for our nation is. If you would like to orient and adjust to the plan, you have the freedom and the privacy to do that but should you choose not to, well that's up to you as well. One thing God gave you is a volition. He lets you make a choice, a decision. You do not have to make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. You do not have to make a decision to believe in the principles of the Word of God. You can choose to live your life the way you want to live your life as many have done in the history of this world. The only thing I can tell you is that if you guess wrong you are in trouble. I don't think believing in Christ is a guess. You make decisions based on faith sometimes. You make decisions based on empirical data sometimes. And sometimes you make decisions just trying to rationally figure things out. Faith is a legitimate way to make a decision and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ requires faith. That's why the Bible says, *"For by grace through faith are you saved, not of works lest any man would brag about it"* (Ephesians 2:8-9). It takes faith to believe what's in the Bible. It takes faith to believe who Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God is. Many people do that, have that kind of faith and experience the real born-again life with Christ living in them and the Word of God sustaining them and the Holy Spirit empowering them. It's a wonderful life I can promise you that. But it's up to you. Some people think they are smarter than God. They have a better deal, they have it figured out a lot better. Sometimes that's called artificial intelligence. A friend of mine, who's a pastor, calls it arrogance plus ignorance equals artificial intelligence (AI). Arrogance certainly comes into the scene when a person says, 'I don't believe in God. I don't believe in God's Word. I think there's a better way to do things.' That has been proven wrong many many times. That's what I'm trying to show you, how this client nation called America - the United States - may be under divine discipline. I'm not telling you this to scare you or in any way intimidate you. I just simply want you to be aware of the fact that you are the solution to what we face in the future. I'm not a pastor, let's get that straight. You need to be under the authority of a well-qualified pastor. Don't listen to me on Sundays and think this is all you need. I'm like a breath of fresh air (I hope). I open the window and fresh air comes in and you say, 'I wish I could learn like that all the time.' You can. There are great pastors, qualified pastors. Maybe not in your city but men that I certainly know about and I can recommend them to you. You can access their DVDs or their MP3 and you can take your Bible and a notebook and sit at home and study until God leads you in the right direction. Don't hesitate to ask if I can help in any way like that. You must be under a pastor if you are ever going to build a main line of resistance in your soul - a FLOT Line. F.L.O.T. - Forward Line of Troops - a main line of resistance. What do I mean by that? This is a protection for your soul. This is learning the principles and the precepts of God's

Word that will protect your soul in time of adversity. As we say so often, adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. Adversity is what circumstances will do to you and stress is what you will do to yourself. Let's go back and remember a couple of verses before we move on. Two verses that were written in Jeremiah's time but are applicable to us today. Jeremiah 17:5, *"Thus says the Lord, [this is true in a political season, listen carefully] 'Cursed be the man that trusts in man and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the Lord.'"* It's a shame to get more involved in politics than in faith with the Lord Jesus Christ and yet some people are totally involved in politics. They are totally into the scene. They believe that this candidate or that candidate can straighten out things in this country. That is just not true. Some candidates are much better qualified than others. Some candidates do a better job than others. But to change the souls of the people that live inside this nation - no politician can do that. Every politician, just like every person in this nation, has a sin nature. There is no perfect politician, even though they may get makeup, they may have a facelift, they may have their teeth fixed, they may look perfect, they may sound perfect but they are imperfect. Just as you are imperfect. So don't trust in man to solve your problems, Jeremiah 17:5. Then in Jeremiah 16:12, talking about their forefathers, *"You have done worse than your father did; for behold, you walk every one after the imagination of his own evil heart and you will not listen to Me."* That's indicative of this client nation today. Everything that used to be good has turned into evil and everything that used to be evil has turned into good (that's a quote from my pastor). It's true, this nation has slowly sunk into the quicksand of sin and we've changed tremendously. Now we honor things that we used to hate and we hate things that we used to honor. The prophet Isaiah wrote and prophesied about this and about the coming discipline on the southern kingdom of Judah since they failed to maintain any spiritual heritage. If we fail to maintain spiritual heritage we will undergo discipline from God. So listen to what Isaiah told that southern kingdom. He said, *"Alas you sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, sons who acted corruptly! They have abandoned the Lord, despised the Holy One of Israel and turned away from Him"* (Isaiah 1:4). These are three keywords: abandon the Lord; despise the Holy One of Israel; and turned away from Him are exactly the reason why a client nation such as this can go under the fifth cycle of discipline or destruction of that nation. A passage like that wasn't written to us, but it's obvious we have identical tendencies. As a nation it's obvious we refuse to recognize God even in the public arena such as our schools, city council meetings, political rallies or sometimes even military functions. We are afraid we are going to get sued by the Freedom From Religion Foundation. If we have ever needed God's grace and God's protection it's today. In World War II we wanted it and we begged for it. Now since we are so prosperous we really don't want any of God's blessing do we? We believe we can go it alone in the devil's world. This is the devil's world and you live in the devil's world. Let's look at Philippians 3:20, *"Your citizenship is in heaven, which also we wait for the Savior to come back, the Lord Jesus Christ."* And 1 Peter 2:11 where it says, *"Those of you who are believers, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against your soul."* I've shown you 2 Timothy 2:15, *"Be*

diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately dividing the word of truth." I've told you the reason we are in trouble today is because we have failed to learn the Word of truth. We put the Word of God aside. It's not important anymore. Most of our churches don't spend much time teaching the Bible. There's a lot of music and a lot of ritual without reality and some of that is just meaningless. In Hosea when he prophesied the destruction of the northern kingdom he told them, "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. You have rejected knowledge, I will reject you*" (Hosea 4:6). People today don't want to learn. People have a Bible but sometimes it's like a good luck charm in the back window of their car or on the coffee table. The Bible is a textbook. It is designed to be learned. That's why God gave the gift of pastor-teacher to certain male individuals - so they can teach it to you. If you will learn it (you are not going to learn it studying it an hour a week) you learn it on a daily routine of feeding on the Word of God - daily. That's why the Bible says, "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed*" (2 Timothy 2:15). If you learn it and you understand what's in that book you will understand **there are four divine institutions. These are what God has ordained for the orderly function of the human race. This is the first thing that Satan attacks in this nation. In order to destroy the United States of America, Satan must destroy these four divine institutions because they are the backbone of security and freedom in America. They are four simple rules of order that provide freedom and prosperity for our nation or any nation if they adhere to them.** The divine institutions - they are wonderful. They define legitimate authority. They define morality and ethics and rule of law for all members of the human race. They are the foundation for any client nation to God such as us. Satan wants to overthrow these thoughts. To think in terms contrary to this is simply satanic tyranny trying to overthrow God's order - Satan does not like it. I'll show you how he attacks it. The first one is freedom or volition. Divine institution number one, volition. You have individual liberty. This is something that God ordained. He gave you freedom to choose. He gave Adam in the garden freedom to choose whether or not he would eat of the forbidden fruit. Eve had the same freedom and she chose to eat the fruit after being tempted by the devil, Lucifer, the snake, the serpent. Then she induced Adam to eat the fruit and the end result was, "*For by one man sin came into the world, and death by sin, and now death has been passed upon all, for all have sinned and the wages of sin is death*" (Romans 5:12; 6:23). This self-determination, this individual liberty we have with our own soul emphasizes our volition. You have to choose which lifestyle you want to follow. Let's take a minute and think about this. Here you are, all brilliant and bright, you have a high-school degree, a college degree, a master's degree, a PhD degree and you are very smart. You look at the Bible and you say, 'You know, that is rather archaic. There's nothing in there that can really enlighten me on how I should live my life.' Maybe you adopt some progressive terminology, maybe adopt some new lifestyle, situational ethics, something like that and you move on down the road in your life ignoring the mandates of God, ignoring the laws that God set up. You think you are going to be happy. You think you are going find peace and security. Your life is constantly in turmoil. You are constantly

trusting someone else to provide for you. What becomes real life becomes miserable life because your happiness depends on what other people do for you. That's not the way the Bible sets up. God says, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's word and keep it"* (Luke 11:28). The happiness comes from having the lifestyle of Christ in you. That's where the real happiness comes from. But political discourse today wants to take away your self-determination, take away your freedom to make decisions and the responsibility that goes with those decisions and redistribute your money - redistribution of wealth, social justice they call it. Meeting the grievance of humans. Listen, you must have freedom to choose. I remember years ago when seatbelts came out and you had to wear a seatbelt and if you don't wear a seatbelt today you get a ticket. You can't even choose not to wear seatbelt. I wear a seatbelt every time I get in the car, I'm not against it. It's the fact that someone tells you - you must do this, you must do that and little by little your rights are taken away from you. You surrender your rights for freedom. You surrender your rights for prosperity and security. A lot of people would rather have security than freedom in this country. Your volition is critical. *"Choose you this day"* Joshua said, *"whom you will serve: ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"* (Joshua 24:15). He issued a challenge - choose you this day. The thief on the cross said, *I believe You are the Son of God* and Jesus said, *"Today you will be with Me in paradise"* (Luke 23:43). He made a decision. He chose to receive Christ as his Savior even on the cross. Your volition is essential. You are going to make decisions today that are going to make yourself miserable. If you use your volition spurred on by your emotion, you are going to let your emotion dictate policy instead of thinking. Thinking is what the Christian life is about - thinking. You say, 'That sounds kind of weird.' No, it doesn't. The Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). You live your Christian life in your thoughts. You must learn to think divine viewpoint. The Bible says in Romans 12:3, *"stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think; but think in terms of humility, as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His word."* It's about thinking. You live inside that head. The Bible clearly says, *"As a man thinks within his heart, so he is"* (Proverbs 23:7). **You are a product of your thoughts, your decisions, your motivation, your intentions, your desires - that is you. God gave you volition. Your volition can destroy you or your volition can guarantee you a wonderful life in Christ. It's up to you. You make the choice. No one is going to make it for you.** How's it going so far? Are you having clear sailing? Are you making yourself miserable by making a lot of bad decisions because you won't take time to consider what the Bible says? What does the Bible say? Well, divine institution number two says marriage is an ordained policy of God. God took Adam and from his rib brought out a wonderful woman called Eve. This is the first marriage created in perfect union by God - man and woman. Monogamy becomes a permanent relationship between one man one woman and it was ordained of God. It is to remind mankind that God has, from the beginning, a design by God called the right woman for the right man. Therefore the Bible says, *"It is not good that man should be alone"* (Genesis 2:18). Thus God created a female, not another male, a female. It's the most basic fundamental organization in

the human race - marriage. Even unbelievers who have a totally miserable life can have a temporary happiness if they marry the right person. This is important. Marriage is one of the greatest areas of mistakes in life. Some of you have been married and divorced several times. You can ask God to forgive you anytime you fail, you know that, but wouldn't it be better to be married once and spend your life with one person and not have to gamble, not have to make a mistake? If you've made a mistake is your life over? No, not at all, just confess it to God and move on down the road. Don't look back. Don't feel guilty. Don't think what a louse I am, I wound up divorced. God has a plan - a lot of people don't understand this. Did you know Moses was divorced. You didn't know that? You didn't know Moses was divorced? He remarried another person that made his brother and his sister go nuts - they didn't like it. Yes, absolutely, Moses' first wife left him and he wrote her a divorce decree. She left him when he went back to Egypt. She took the two sons and went home with them. Marriage is one of the most basic fundamental organizations in the human race. In marriage the man must have authority over the wife. "*Wives submit yourself to your own husbands, as to the Lord*" (Ephesians 5:22). And in Genesis 2:24, "*For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*" Okay, let's move into divine institution number three - the family. The family - God ordains the family. This is where all authority is established. Parental authority is the way we prepare children for having a normal life and conquer their arrogance and rebellion. Permissiveness by parents destroys this. There's got to be recognition of authority. There's got to be orientation to certain principles in life or the kid will grow up and self-destruct and probably destroy himself. The highest expression of love that a parent can give to their children is in the form of discipline. Children must be trained to respect the privacy, the property and the rights of others, not to abuse freedom and to have respect for all authority. Christian parents especially must also evangelize their children. Tell them the good news of the Gospel. Tell them about the Lord Jesus Christ and provide Biblical training for them so when they get older at least they can see two different roads. At least they can see the Thy-way-highway or the my-way-highway. At least they can see divine wisdom as compared to the cosmic wisdom. It's out there. Cosmic wisdom will tell you one thing, divine wisdom tells you another thing. Which one is true? Which one do you want to believe? Which one will you follow in the area of marriage or family, or in your own volition? Listen, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, shows the importance of training children. This is what Moses said, "*These words, which I command to you this day, shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children and you shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down at night and rise up in the morning. And you will bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals between your eyes. And you shall write them on the post of your house and on the gates.*" This was to remind the children of the importance of the Word of God. So if you don't instill in your children divine norms and standards, if you don't put them in their souls then you guarantee them a one-way trip into the cosmic system since that's the only alternative they've ever heard. Thousands of teenagers today have never ever been exposed to the Word of God, the Gospel message of faith

alone in Christ alone, never been exposed to the four divine institutions. Thus they think only in the terms of the cosmic system - what we know is the genius of Satan. The Bible calls it the genius of evil. Evil wants to overturn everything that God has set up. Remember it is the devil's world and the thing that he hates the most in this world is the living Word of God. He hates the Bible. He can't do anything about the Lord Jesus Christ Who is seated at the right hand of the Father from where He'll come to judge the quick and the dead. **But Satan hates the Bible and he's going to do everything he can to get you to ignore it, to discard it, to disregard that Bible, to not pay attention to it and make sure that no future generations of Americans know what's in that book. What's in that book is the secret to safety, the secret to society, the secret to security, the secret to happiness - all in that book.** The fourth divine institution is called nationalism. You say, 'What is that?' Well, if the entire human race were under one rule prior to the Millennium, then it would self-destruct. Internationalism is outlawed as being evil by the Word of God. We are not to be internationalist, we are to be nationalists. This is exactly why God separated the human race. This is why He perpetuated the human race to bring history to its logical conclusion. God designed the nation to protect the freedom and the rights of people on this planet. Nationalism, one language, should be recognized in one nation. This all started at the Tower of Babel with a divine judgment of the original United Nations at the Tower of Babel. The human race was then divided into nations. This division was originally based on racial, geographical and linguistic norms. As the human race continued in history, true racial distinctions began to be obliterated in the rise of civilization. Thus, you may be surprised by this, racial purity is a myth except in pristine areas. Race is generally used by politicians to create false issues and narrative. The Biblical proof that nationalism is authorized by God is found in Genesis 10:5, Deuteronomy 32:8 and Acts 17:26-28. I'll read that one, *"And God has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth and He has determined the times before appointed and the bounds of their habitation that they should seek the Lord, if perhaps they might follow after Him and find Him, though He is not far from every one of us, for in Him we live and move and have our being, as certain also your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'"* Listen to Genesis 10:5, *"By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their land, every one after his own tongue, every one after their own family, every one in their own nation."* Listen to Deuteronomy 32:8, *"When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel."* God set boundaries. God put North America, South America, European continents, different races, different languages, different faces, different colors for a reason. It was to protect the world from satanic domination. In the end as the Tribulation appears, this is what the antichrist will want to do - to become an international world so one man can rule the whole world. I hope this is making sense to you. We just have to remember these divine institutions are critical if this nation is ever going to succeed. If you pay attention you will see freedom, marriage, family and nationalism attacked on a daily basis. Okay, hope you listened and learned something. This is your host, Rick Hughes saying thank you.

The Wisdom of God

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 746 aired on December 8, 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 hang around, listen up, pay attention because this show is giving you some wonderful information without any type of manipulation. We are not trying to con anybody. We are just here to remind you of some Biblical truths and introduce you to a new way of learning, studying God's Word, identifying God's plan for you and hopefully you will be able to orient and adjust to the plan. I don't know where you are this morning, what city that you are in. We play the show in multiple cities across the United States every Sunday morning. I'm very grateful that you are listening. It is always a challenge to get this information out and get it right and to pray and see what God would have me to present to you. It is not an easy thing to do every Sunday - 14 years we have been doing this now - there are a lot of distractions. But my job is to get it to you accurate, get it right. Your job is to hear it, apply it and learn it. Remember, God gave you two ends. One of them you sit with, one of them you think with. Heads you win, tails you lose. So we want to learn what God has for us, what God's plan has for us. We are not talking about ritual without reality. We are not talking about the nod to God crowd. We are not talking about the organized religion that people play sometimes in their local churches. We are talking about the 'real deal Lucille' the real Christian life, that real true way to live the Christ-centered life. That's what the FLOT Line is all about - giving you information. FLOT stands for Forward Line Of Troops. It means that there are some wonderful problem-solving devices found in the Bible. And when you learn them and when you use them they protect you just like a main line of resistance in the military would keep the enemy out of the fort. These ten problem-solving devices are not new. They deal with: (1) rebound, (2) filling of the Holy Spirit, (3) faith-rest drill, (4) grace orientation, (5) Biblical orientation, (6) having a personal sense of destiny, (7) personal love for God, (8) impersonal love for all mankind, (9) sharing the happiness of God and then (10) occupation with Christ. When you learn these, when you use them, when you stand on them then you have a lifestyle of wisdom - this is what they are. They are the wisdom of God put into a military metaphor so you can understand how the Christian life functions and operates - Biblical truths that can be used as problem-solving devices every day in your life. They are called God's wisdom of the ages. They allow you to function within this devil's world with impunity if you learn and use them. By the way, you can hear us not just on this radio station but you can also hear us on our newly created podcast. If you have a phone you can go to the website Spotify, download it free and type in The FLOT Line. Or you can go to the Apple podcast and type in The FLOT Line and you can hear our show at anytime of the day you wish to hear them. They are all free. I hope you will take advantage of that because my job is to get you some information and steer you in the right direction. I'm not your pastor. I'm just like a window, a breath of fresh air trying to direct you to a great pastor where you can grow spiritually and learn to be the person God intended you to be. My challenges are this: for you to acquire the wisdom of the ages. There's only one reason you would want to do that. Hopefully the reason you are

listening to my radio show today is you love God. If you love God and you have reverential respect for God then you are going to fulfill God's plan for your life. Listen to 1 John 5:3, "*This is the love of God, that we keep His mandates; and His mandates are not a burden.*" This demonstrates that you love Him - it is called obedience. In Proverbs 1:7, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...*" That word fear doesn't mean that you are afraid of Him, it means reverential obedience. So if you are going to grow as a Christian, if we are going to survive in the devil's world, if we are going to glorify Jesus Christ to the max - we must learn God's plan. You can't operate on a shoestring. It's not the your-way-highway it's God's-way-highway. Thy-way-highway not my-way-highway. And that means you have to learn something. And so in Proverbs 1:7 the fear of the Lord is where it starts. Obedience, reverential obedience is the beginning of knowledge. Nothing comes without knowledge. You must have knowledge to understand what God's plan for your life is. The problem is, the Bible says, in the second half of Proverbs 1:7, that a fool doesn't want any knowledge. It says, "*...fools despise wisdom and instruction.*" That's the arrogance of a fool. You can't teach a fool anything, he is so arrogant he thinks he knows it already. You may know a few people like that. You may have some children like that - they think they know it already, they don't need your advice. And that's a sad state of affairs I know. But only a fool would claim they did not need instructions on how to live in the devil's world. Yep, that's right, the devil's world. We live in the devil's world. John 12:31-33, just to remind you, "*Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.* [this is Jesus Christ speaking about future time] *When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to Myself* [that's the cross]. *Speaking of the manner of death He would die.*" He called Satan the ruler of this world. In John 16:11, "*of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged already*" - that's the Holy Spirit's ministry judging of sin, righteousness and judgment. Matthew 4:8-9, Satan tried to tempt the Lord to worship him and said, "*I'll give You all these kingdoms of the world and I'll give You all of their glory if You will worship me.*" It's Satan's. We live in the devil's domain. This is not our home, we are just passing through. So reverence for God (reverential obedience for God) and obedience to His plan are the foundation for a life of happiness and fulfillment. No obedience - no happiness - no fulfillment. As a matter of fact, Jesus Christ Himself said, "*Happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and keep it*" (Luke 11:28). So if there's no respect for God's Word, there is no reverence for God, then that's a guarantee that you are going to have a life unfulfilled and full of frustration. There are many Americans that I'm talking to now that care nothing about the Bible, that care nothing about God, they think they've got it made, they think they have a better deal, they think they have a better way and they are going to continue to butt their head against the wall until they bleed to death because they can't move the wall with their head. Only God's Word can give you the path. Only God's Word can show you the way around that wall. So when you have a lack of respect and a lack of reverence for God's Word - you can book it - you are going to have an unfulfilled life full of frustration. If you have no reverential respect, the Bible says you are a fool. In Proverbs 10:27, "*The respect for the Lord [or His plan] prolongs your life, but the years of the wicked will be*

shortened.” Did you hear that? *“The respect for the Lord [His plan] prolongs your life, but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.”* Then it goes on to state, *“... fools die for lack of understanding”* (Proverbs 10:21). There you go. There's a death certificate for the dumbfool that ignores God's word, won't pay attention to it, not interested in it, doesn't believe that Jesus Christ is the anointed Son of God, is living in a devil's world trapped in the cosmic system thinking satanic concepts of evil - he is a fool. The Bible makes that very clear. So the wisdom of God gives you understanding. Wisdom does not come overnight. Wisdom must be learned and acquired – and that's if you have a desire for knowledge. If you have a desire for knowledge it is like a desire for cake or desire for ice cream or a desire for a cookie - you want it, you like it and you want another one. **When you have a desire to learn God's Word you get wisdom. Over a period of time, learning gives you wisdom. And what wisdom does once it gets into the bank of your soul, it gives you understanding and discernment:** why you are here; what you are tasked to do while you are here; why did God send you here; and what God wants you to do. This kind of wisdom is your most valuable asset. Proverbs 3:15 says, (wisdom is in the feminine style here) *“She [that's wisdom] is more precious than jewels; and nothing you desire compares with her.”* Why? Because she will extend your life. You can't buy more time with jewels. You can't buy more time with pearls. But you can buy more time with God's wisdom. How? Well you won't self-destruct, you won't destroy yourself by being a fool and ignoring the plan of God. **Your job and my job is to receive the instructions of wisdom that lead us to justice in our life, righteousness in our life and equity.** In Proverbs 1:3, the writer, Solomon, said, I write this so you can *“receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity.”* What's this righteousness stuff? Well, remember God is absolutely righteous. *“There are none righteous, no not one”* (Romans 3:10). *“All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag in God's eyes”* (Isaiah 64:6). I don't want to tell you over the radio what the Hebrew word for filthy rag is. You don't want to hear it, it would be embarrassing to you. God put it in the Bible, maybe I should, I don't know. You can look it up for yourself. But here's the deal: your righteousness, your good deeds your church attendance, your money that you give, the sweet nice things you do, won't get you to heaven. That's just all human good. It's human righteousness and it's a filthy rag in God's eyes. There are none that are righteous, not even one. How do we get righteousness if we can't manufacture righteousness, if we cannot live up to the righteous standards of God? How do we get it? Well, the Bible says simply, *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us so we could be made the righteousness of God through Him”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). You are made righteous through Christ so that when God looks at you in Christ He sees righteousness - the righteousness of Christ imputed to you. Just like when He looked at Christ on the cross He saw sin, my sin and your sin, imputed to Him. So God is absolutely righteous and you can be absolutely righteous too through Jesus Christ. That's your position not your experience. In your experience in time you will be unrighteous every day. You will sin daily. But in your position in Christ you are absolutely righteous. So God's absolute righteousness is one of the things you must understand with wisdom. You can't buy righteousness. You can't manufacture righteousness. You only

receive it through Jesus Christ. So Solomon wrote these Proverbs so we can “*receive instruction in wise behavior such as righteousness and justice and equity.*” God's absolute justice. Here's something my pastor used to say years ago, **either you adjust to the justice of God or the justice of God will adjust to you.** It's up to you. I mean, either you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior (which is what God provided for you) or you will force God at the Great White Throne of Judgment to cast you into the lake of fire (which is not His plan). “*The Lord is not willing that any should perish [the Bible says] but that all should come to repentance [change their mind]*” (2 Peter 3:9). So He is absolutely righteous, He is absolutely just and He's equity which means fair. This means that we are to avoid judging, slandering, maligning and criticizing - give other believers their privacy. That's key. So Proverbs 1:3, this wisdom gives you “*instruction in wise behavior which is righteousness, justice and equity.*” Invaluable for you and me to understand this. This understanding the Bible offers, that comes out of wisdom, includes discernment. Once we get wisdom, then we have the understanding and the discernment - the special ability to see what lies ahead, what's dangerous. How do you get wisdom? By learning. “*Study to show yourself approved to God a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth*” (2 Timothy 2:15). “*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 3:18). Scripture - learn - study - grow. You don't get wisdom singing praise and worship songs. You get wisdom by listening to the instruction of the Word of God. “*Faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the Word*” the Bible says (Romans 10:17). You think you are going to get it when you take your Bible and go sit out under a tree and read it? The Holy Spirit can speak to you, but He gives the gift of pastor-teacher. This book we call the Bible, the holy Scriptures of God, is a textbook and it's designed to be taught to us. It was written in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic designed for you to understand - no mistakes, no compromises. That's why it's critical you don't try to do it on your own but you get under the ministry of a qualified pastor who understands the original languages and can teach it to you. Then you can apply it into your life. Understanding includes discernment or the ability to see what lies ahead. Listen to Proverbs 1:5, “*A wise man will hear, a wise man will increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel.*” So if you have some wisdom you have some understanding. If you have some understanding you have some discernment. If you have some discernment you go to people that are smarter than you, people that have been around longer than you and say, ‘What do you think I should do? Give me your opinion about this subject.’ That doesn't mean that God calls out people to counsel you. You must live your own spiritual life. But there's nothing wrong with seeking a more spiritually mature person. If you are getting married or a newly married wife, the Bible says it's okay for the older women to teach younger women what they are supposed to do and how to do it. You seek counsel, you seek wisdom. That's what I had to do in my ministry as I began. And even today I call friends and pastors and ask them, ‘How does this apply to my life? What does that mean?’ That's what we do, we seek wise counsel. So a person with reverence for God's Word, who possesses understanding of God's Word is a very blessed individual and has a life of pleasantness, of peace,

not a life of conflict. Proverbs 3:17, *“The ways of wisdom are pleasant ways and the path of wisdom is peace.”* There it is. **Now, God is offering you a life of pleasant circumstances and a life of peace - not conflict - if you seek wisdom, His Word, understanding, discernment, insight. Guidance through the maze of this life is the very promise of God's wisdom. He will guide you through the maze of this life in the devil's world.** In Proverbs 3:6, *“In all of your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”* You are talking about your own personal tour guide through life. By means of God the Holy Spirit using the Word of God there is your tour guide in life. That's why wisdom is important. That's why understanding and insight are so important because we are on a battlefield. Spiritual warfare daily, whether you realize it or not, is going on every day and it's toward you. It's an attack toward you to discourage you, to defeat you, to discredit you because if the enemy can do that he can malign the name of God. ‘Look that person said they are a Christian. Look at the way they are acting, losers.’ That's what Satan does. He goes before the throne and maligns you before God. Then the Lord Jesus Christ steps up and says, ‘Wait a minute Father he's mine. I'll deal with him.’ Listen to this battle in Ephesians 6:11-17 (maybe this will help you understand why things are so rough sometimes), *“Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand firm against the strategy of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places. Because of this, take up the full armor of God so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm because of this, having girded up your loins with truth [wisdom] put on the breastplate of righteousness [+R or God's righteousness] and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [that's sharing the good news of Christ] and in addition to all of this taking up the shield of faith [faith-rest drill: problem-solving device #3] with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one [those are the attacks that Satan will force on you.] Take the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.”* The helmet of salvation is your security in Christ. One of the things the devil is good at doing is telling people they are not really saved, that they are going to lose their salvation. Listen, the security is in Christ Jesus. He said, *“I will never leave you. I will never forsake you”* (Deuteronomy 31:6). He said, *“I give unto them eternal life, and they will never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of My Father's hand”* (John 10:28). In the Word of God, the Bible says, pick up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. The Bible is your weapon and you can't use it if you don't have wisdom. You won't have wisdom if you don't have hunger for knowledge. And you won't have knowledge until you are ‘pleasant to receive it.’ Until you are ready to learn on a daily basis, to grow spiritually, until you see this as priority number one in your life, you are never going to be able to fulfill God's total plan for you. Yes, you are a believer. Yes, you are going to heaven. Yes, you will have some sort of impact but not what you could have had if you did what you should have done - make the Word of God priority number one. Stay filled with the Holy Spirit. Get under the ministry of a qualified pastor. Take in God's Word every day. Represent Jesus Christ in your community and

re-present Jesus Christ through your life. That's what it's all about. So we are in a war, a spiritual war. The Bible goes on to say in Romans 8:35,37, *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall disaster, or anguish, or persecution, or economic depression, or privatization, or danger from warfare? In all of these things we win the supreme victory through Christ who loves us."* There is your guaranteed protector and way out. Remember your own personal tour guide? There it is. The wisdom of God is called spiritual solutions. And the attainment of this wisdom is called spiritual growth. So if you take the spiritual solutions of the Word of God and learn them (spiritual growth) this gives you spiritual skills to live the spiritual life. **The wisdom of God is called spiritual solutions. The attainment of these solutions, or wisdom, is called spiritual growth. When you have spiritual growth, you develop spiritual skills that give you the ability to live the spiritual life.** What are those skills? (1) spiritual self-esteem, (2) spiritual autonomy and eventually (3) spiritual maturity. Spiritual self-esteem, spiritual autonomy and eventually spiritual maturity. These include you identifying your spiritual gift and you utilizing the resources that God gives you - the spiritual resources. What are your resources? Listen to 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, *"The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh [I'm talking about your spiritual resources now] but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God [the truth, the wisdom of God] and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."* The mind is where the battlefield is. The war is for your thoughts, your thinking. That's why the Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). So in this passage that we just looked at, wisdom is the teacher. In this passage wisdom is an anthropomorphic metaphor. In other words, it's describing wisdom as a human teacher, human abilities, or a father. So what is wise behavior? Righteousness, justice and equity. Let's get some principles down. Wisdom is a teacher, that's the first principle. Secondly, what is wise behavior? It is righteousness, justice and equity. Thirdly, God's wisdom will give years to your life if you learn it and use it. Proverbs 3:2, *"For length of days and years of life, and peace they will add to you."* And fourth, God's wisdom will allow you to live at peace with Him and with others. Peace with God is an amazing thing. Fifth, the divine mandate for trust is found in Proverbs 3:5-6. It's a mandate. *"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways look to Him, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."* There you go. So what's the value of God's wisdom? *"How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, for her profit is better than the profit of silver, and her gain better than fine gold. Wisdom is more precious than all the jewels in the world; and nothing you desire compares with her"* (Proverbs 3:13-15). Why? Because you have insight and discernment and understanding. Wisdom is not inherited. It must be sought after and it must be learned. I hope you have been challenged. I hope you are listening and understand the importance of the Word of God in your life. The importance of learning these problem-solving devices. They are the wisdom of God. I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you today for listening to the FLOT Line.

Spiritually Brain Dead - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Lesson 747 aired on December 15, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I am your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes you have a cordial invitation to stick around and listen to 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education but never any manipulation. We do not con people. We are not trying to hustle your money. We are not asking you to join anything. We simply want you to listen. Listen so I can verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If I can do that, you have the freedom, the privilege to orient and adjust to the plan should you decide to do so. This show, the FLOT Line, is always designed to remind you of biblical truths and introduce you to a different way of studying and learning God's Word. Remember what I tell you every Sunday morning, God gave you two ends: one of those ends you sit on and one of those ends you think with. Success in your life will depend on which one you use. Heads you win, tails you lose. Today we want to talk about being spiritually brain-dead. We have all been around people that are kind of brain-dead just from the physical standpoint - they do not know much. You can tell they do not know much by what they have to say. Whatever a person is in his soul comes out in his language. If he just has a coarse, rough language, not many words, you can tell he does not know a whole lot. Solomon wrote the Proverbs that we have been looking at in the last week or two (we studied wisdom last week) to inspire those people that are spiritually brain-dead. Spiritually brain-dead are people that do not know much about the plan of God. This is the way that I was after I accepted Christ as my Savior. I was spiritually brain-dead. I never had heard a word like regeneration or imputation or sanctification or any word like that. I did not understand anything about the second advent of Christ. I did not understand the filling of the Holy Spirit. I did not understand any of the nomenclature related to the spiritual life. I had to learn how God's plan operates, and it did not come overnight. I had to take time to study and learn under my pastor how the Word of God works, and what God expects out of me, and what I am supposed to do. **When Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit, his apparent objective was to stress the importance of having the wisdom of God. He made it available for you and for me through his written words and we call it the Scripture.** So listen as I read to you from Proverbs 1:1-7 referring to the wisdom of God. It says, *“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: I write these for gaining wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young, let the wise listen and add to the learning, and let the discerning get guidance for understanding proverbs in parables, the sayings and the riddles of the wise. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* All right I want to take a look at verse four particularly. One of the reasons that he wrote this Proverb is for gaining prudence, for giving prudence to those who are simple. The word prudence in the Hebrew - remember that the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic and the New Testament primarily in the *koine* Greek, and so as you begin to break these words down in study with what we call the ICE technique. I.C.E. - ICE - like you want in a Coca-Cola or a soda with ice. I am going to give you some big words here but it is important to understand them. “I” stands for the word isagogics or isagogical. “C” stands for categories. “E” stands for exegesis. So

when we study the Scripture we exegete the Scripture line-by-line, word-by-word, we develop categories. Isagogics is the word itself - how it was used, where it came from, what its meaning is. And so the isagogics of the word prudence is what I want to look at. Prudence in the Hebrew means to give discretion or wisdom or subtlety (which is basically the state of being very subtle) or having shrewdness or mental acumen. I had never heard that word, mental acumen, before I got saved. I did not know what acumen was. Being subtle is the act of conveying something in a skillful clever way versus a direct manner. It is truly an art form - one that is not easily mastered, I promise you. Being subtle is a tactic that allows you and me to maneuver in the devil's world without drawing a lot of attention to ourself. That is not what we are supposed to do. So let me give you some principles about being subtle because this is one of the characteristics of wisdom. (1) An overbearing person is an obnoxious person. That is a person that does not know when to keep his mouth shut. I think we have done a study on this show before called "Ten Times to Keep Your Mouth Shut." If you have never heard that, if you write to me, we will send it to you. Do not send money. We are not asking for money. There are a lot of reasons to keep your mouth shut and one of them is judging your neighbors and sticking your nose in other people's business. But an overbearing person is an obnoxious person; they cannot keep their mouth shut, they are always trying to straighten everybody else out, trying to run the show - the alpha male, you know, the big dog, the GOAT (greatest of all time) in the crowd, etc. (2) The second principle is about being subtle. This is an art form of thinking and communicating clearly without being obnoxious, without being overbearing, without being persistent. (3) Wisdom is knowing when to speak and knowing what to say. Some people just pipe up and get in the middle of the conversation when they really have nothing to offer. They try to act like they know what they are talking about, but they do not. You have seen it before and I have seen it before. You can be having an intellectual discussion with someone about a subject and the person that does not know anything about the subject wants to get in the middle of it and throw in some words. It is just stupid, they do not know what they are even talking about so they should not have been in the middle of that conversation. I have been in that position when I first became a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. I heard people talking about things that I did not understand and I wanted to be in the conversation, so I put my two cents worth in and people looked at me like, "Where did that come from? You must be out of your mind." I was trying to be noticed and to be recognized and that is part of being obnoxious - wanting to be recognized. So this is the wisdom of knowing when to speak and what to say - subtle - that is prudence. Prudence is having accurate content, content in all your directions or all your conversations. If you do not have accurate content, then everything you are doing is just wasted breath. That's all. (4) When you speak. You must have clear thinking and you must have accurate content. So where do we get the content? That is the question. Where do we get accurate content? That is the wisdom that Solomon is offering us in this book. Paul said it this way in Philippians 1:9, "*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more in real knowledge and discernment.*" Acumen - discernment - knowledge. Anytime you say you love God, and people do say 'I love God' - are you telling the truth? Because 1 John 5:3 says, "*If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard.*" What is one of the first mandates? "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18) and "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed*" (2 Timothy 2:15). You love God and you are not growing spiritually? You say you

love God and you are not obeying these mandates? You do not love God. You are emotionally attached to God. To have sincere love for God is appreciation and respect and reverence for His character. Can you even tell me what is the essence of God? Sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, immutability, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence - do you know what these things even mean? I did not. I had to learn them. I had to have some wisdom. As part of being in the ministry you must know what you are talking about or else you need to keep your mouth shut. Paul says, I want your love, your appreciation, your commitment to your Lord to grow in more knowledge and more discernment. Keep in mind that knowledge can be translated two ways in the New Testament: it can be translated from the Greek word *gnosis* and it can be translated from the Greek word *epignosis*. The difference in these two are the difference between hearing and keeping. When you hear the Word of God and understand it, you have *gnosis*. But when you apply it in your life, it becomes *epignosis* or full knowledge. The word “*epi*” is a preposition meaning full knowledge. That is the objective of the Christian life. You go to church, you hear your pastor teach the Bible, and you want to apply it into your life. That is why Jesus said, “*happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it*” (Luke 11:28). Nobody is perfect but you cannot keep what you do not know and you cannot know unless you go and learn and listen. “*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*” (Romans 10:17). If you are not listening and learning you are not going to be growing. So when you speak you have to have accurate content. In Philippians 1:9 we see the apostle Paul stressing the very same thing Solomon did almost 1000 years earlier. So you just really have to ask yourself why the Bible keeps repeating the need for the believer to have discernment and understanding which is derived from wisdom in the soul. Why is this such a big issue? Why is it over and over and over again stressed? The answer is simple. The spiritual life is lived in the soul. You have a soul and I have a soul. We have mentality, we have volition, we have a conscience, and we have a self-consciousness. This is where we live our spiritual life. We live the spiritual life in the soul. We express what we believe in the action of our body and how we conduct ourself. The soul has mentality and volition, thus Satan wants to take advantage of us. Satan's advantage in this world is to distort your thinking. That is how he gets an advantage. Since you have mentality and volition, he wants to distort your thinking into terms called human viewpoint or humanism. This is the exact opposite of divine viewpoint, which is God's plan for you and I to execute a successful spiritual life. I do not know if you are aware of this but Satan is known to have his own ministers in pulpits across our country today who preach human viewpoint. 2 Corinthians 11:15, “*Therefore, it is not surprising if his servants [that is his ministers] also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness [servants of God]; whose end shall be according to their deeds.*” So here we know for a fact that there are men and women in pulpits across America today that claim to be servants of God - but they are not. Satan is known as the greatest deceiver in all of history. To be this good a deceiver he must be the greatest and best liar in history and Jesus said he was in John 8:44, “...the father of all lies.” The greatest lie you could ever hear is this humanism or human viewpoint thinking - it is not the wisdom of God. Those people who stand in the pulpits and teach for Satan are giving what is called doctrine of demons. In 1 Timothy 4:1, “... *some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the doctrine of demons.*” That is human viewpoint, that is humanism, progressivism, socialism. This is not taught in the Bible. This is not part of the Word of God. Hopefully you can see that if the

enemy can control what you think and what you believe then he can control what you do. That is the objective of the enemy. **So we are exhorted over and over and over again throughout the New Testament to learn God's plan so we can execute and fulfill His desire for us so that we might in fact glorify him, not ourselves.** Ephesians 3:20 says, *"All glory belongs to God whose power is at work in us."* That power is dual power: it is the power of the Holy Spirit (which is problem-solving device #2: the filling of the Holy Spirit, by means of problem-solving device #1: confession of known sin to God) and is also the power of the Word of God inside of you (problem-solving device #3: the faith-rest drill and problem-solving device #5: Biblical orientation). So when you have the Word of God in your soul and you are filled with the Holy Spirit then God's power is working in you. Thus, we have a demand from the New Testament that we become spiritually mature believers. In 2 Peter 3:18, *"Grow [this is not a request, this is an order from Peter, this is a commandment] in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* Mandated. If you are not growing, you are sinning. A Christian who does not progress in the Christian life is going to go backwards. The rate of forgetting will exceed the rate of learning. If it is that way in your life, you are not growing. You must grow on a daily basis. You must be under the ministry of a good qualified pastor who can teach you God's Word so that you can learn it and apply it into your life. That is more than Sunday morning. Do not fall for the nod to God crowd. That is all you are going to be if that is all you do - go on Sunday, show up say, "Hello God; goodbye God; see you next week God." That is the nod to God crowd, and you wind up being a caricature of Christ, not the image of Christ. You have got to learn to think like He thinks and that is why the Bible says it, "let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). **The Bible is the mind of Christ. The New Testament is the mind of Christ. We have it and we are to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** So the importance of learning the wisdom of God is the educating of the simple or the spiritually brain-dead individual. How did that passage go when we started it while ago? Let me back up in my notes and I will read it to you one more time. *"for giving prudence to those who are simple [those who are simple people are the spiritually brain-dead people; these are called in the next part of that passage] "the youth who need knowledge and discretion"* (Proverbs 1:4). Normally, youth are spiritually brain-dead. They have their mind on everything else except the plan of God. I never thought about the plan of God when I was growing up but I did not grow up in a Christian home either. Never went to church, never was told to go to church. Maybe you are different. Maybe you started learning the plan of God when you were a young person. That is fantastic if that is true. My prayer is that you are not spiritually brain-dead. Principles: (1) if you can destroy the thinking of the youth then you can destroy the client nation. Keep in mind the United States of America has been a client nation to God for many years. And if there is one objective the enemy has, it is to destroy this nation so that we do not send out missionaries to all corners of the world, so that we do not proclaim the Gospel all across the world, so that we are not a haven for the Jews, so that we do not operate under the divine institutions of marriage, family, freedom, and nationalism. These are all important things to understand. So if you can destroy the thinking of the youth and capture their mindset then you can destroy the future of any client nation. (2) Satan's attack on client nation USA - you hear it chanted, "USA! USA!" - is to capture the thoughts and the imagination of the youth who are ultimately the future decision makers of this country. (3) He does this through the abundance of

social media which is an appeal to the emotions and not a challenge to the intellect. If there is anything that is rampant on social media it is humanism, human viewpoint. (4) Emotions are a responder not an initiator. Emotions give us the ability to have appreciation but not any discernment, that requires thinking and humanism promotes no thinking. Humanism promotes emotionalism. Humanism promotes the now - what is happening right now, not any discernment or wisdom or insight or understanding. (5) Accurate thought requires accurate information in the beginning and that starts at home. It starts with authority orientation at home. This is where the failure in America is today. There is very little authority orientation at home. Too many broken families. Satan has been successful through divorce at breaking up many families. If it happens, the parents break up, then the kid winds up living like I did with a mother who had to work. She farmed me out to different guardians throughout the week and I would live with different people and come home on the weekend - Friday night and Saturday night I would come home. I did not really know my mom that much because I was living with other people who did not teach me anything about God. Nothing about the Word of God. So accurate thought requires accurate information, beginning at the youth. Ephesians 6:1-2 says to obey and honor your parents. This is authority orientation. The first thing a parent has to do is teach the child that when I say no, I mean no. Obey in the Greek means to be under the authority of. The word for honor in the Greek means to respect. So the job of the young person at home is to obey the orders of the parents and to respect and honor their parents. That does not mean if your mom tells you to go to the grocery store and steal a loaf of bread you are supposed to do that. You are not obligated to commit a crime if your parents encourage you to do that. But you are obligated to be under their authority and sometimes that authority is not always fair. So then the question arises, are you going to react to unfair treatment or will you respond to unfair treatment? That is always the question in life even when you get a job. Will you react or will you respond? Will you get mad and angry, let your emotions take over, blow it off, open your mouth and say something you should not say? Or will you respond with forgiveness and love? That is the secret to the Christian life - being able to respond to adversity, not react to adversity. Proverbs 3:1-2 says, "*My son* [this is David speaking to Solomon], *do not forget my teachings, but let your heart obey my instructions.*" He made sure that Solomon had a good background in the Word of God. (6) Failure to teach authority orientation at home results in a soul out of control and making decisions on arrogant, self-centered emotions. Remember, arrogance is identified by self-justification, self-absorption, self-deception and self-destruction. So if you justify why you are right and your parents are wrong, if you are totally deceived, if you lie to them and lie to yourself, and you get totally absorbed with what you are doing, you wind up destroying yourself. We are all about one or two decisions away from destroying our lives, aren't we? There a lot of kids walking around today that are one or two decisions away from destroying their lives because they have had no parental instruction, no wisdom given to them so they would have discernment and understanding. They are easily manipulated by the enemy, a.k.a. the devil, and used by him to destroy a client nation. The next word in that passage we wanted to look at was the word simple. Give prudence to the simple. The Hebrew word for simple means those who have no divine standards that result in foolish decisions are simply relying on their emotions, not any content, when making some sort of decision in life. They are naïve, they are silly, they are easily seduced, they are easily persuaded, easily enticed. Principles: (1) with no divine operating standards, a young person is easily

persuaded to step into a sin, he is very credulous - one who has a readiness to believe the lie. And (2) the simple minded person has no Biblical frame of reference. (3) With no basis to determine right from wrong the person is easily persuaded to step into an arena he should not go into he, should not enter. (4) Early exposure to sinful flawed behavior leads to scar tissue or hardening of the heart. This is seen in Ephesians 4:18-20 where Paul said, *“being darkened in their understanding, they are excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, since they developed a hardness in their heart they have become callous and betrayed themselves in the sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity and greediness. You did not learn this from Christ.”* Proverbs 1:4b continues, *“... To the youth knowledge and discretion.”* The simple are the youth, they need knowledge they need discretion. Youth in the Hebrew means a boy, a youth, a lad, a servant, a damsel, usually under the age of 20 and they need knowledge which means perceptive ability built on wisdom and understanding. Without perceptive ability the young person can not tell when they are being manipulated. The tragedy of American youth today is many have no ability to recognize the lie of socialism or the lure of humanism. One of the reasons for this flaw is the parents did not teach and did not demonstrate the wisdom of God to them at a very early age. There is more to say about this but I am running out of time. I think I will try to come back and follow this up and continue with this next week. I hope you have been listening. I hope you have been paying attention. I hope it is a challenge. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Spiritually Brain Dead - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 748 aired on December 22, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, stick around and listen a bit. This show is designed for some inspiration, motivation and education - all about the plan of God for your life. If I can do a good job maybe you will orient and adjust to the plan. That's up to you. But God did give you two ends, one that you sit with and one that you think with, and success in your life will depend on which one you use. So I always say, heads you win and tails you lose. Heads means you put something in your brain, you put something up there to think with because that's where you actually live your spiritual life, if in fact you are a Christian. You live your spiritual life in your soul, in the mentality of your soul. You have an invisible soul and you have an invisible spirit. These are the two things that go to heaven and get the new body - the new resurrection body. Your soul has a consciousness and that consciousness has norms and standards. Things that you live by, things that you learned as a child - you learned certain norms like brush your teeth, make up your bed and you learned standards. If you were taken to church you learned God's standards and God's Ten Commandments, you learned different parables from the Bible, you learned standards to live by. These are called wisdom in the Bible. It is God's way of giving you wisdom by learning His Word so it can enable you to have a wonderful life. Solomon the king of Israel wrote about some of this wisdom in his Proverbs under the inspiration of God, and we started talking about this last week. We approach the subject of being spiritually brain-dead, that's people that have no wisdom from the Word of God inside the mentality of their soul, in the standards of their soul. Solomon's objective - I remind you, his objective was to stress the importance of the wisdom of God which He made available for you and me through His written Word. I read to you Proverbs 1:1-7. "*The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: for gaining wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple [that's the spiritually brain-dead], knowledge and discretion to the young, [that's young people; he goes on in verse five] let the wise listen and add to the learning, let the discerning get their guidance for understanding proverbs in parables, the sayings and the riddles of the wise. [Then it goes on to say] The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*" So Proverbs 1:4 says, "*for giving prudence to those who are simple.*" Simple, used with the word, prudence. The Hebrew word means discretion or wisdom or subtlety, which is the state of having some mental acumen, the state of being shrewd. That's why Solomon wrote these things. And why we talk about what it means to be a subtle believer - not being bold or brash or obnoxious. When you speak you must have clear thinking and accurate content if you are going to communicate the plan of God. And I challenged you to think about why the Bible keeps repeating the need for the believer to have discernment and understanding derived from the wisdom in our soul? Because the spiritual life is lived in the soul and it's expressed in your body. Your soul has mentality and volition, and Satan will use every advantage he can in this world to distort the way

you think; what's called human viewpoint, not divine viewpoint. Human viewpoint is the exact opposite of divine viewpoint. One of the ways that he distorts these things is through his own ministers in pulpits who preach human viewpoint. In 2 Corinthians 11:15, *"Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their own deeds."* According to John 8:44, Satan is the greatest deceiver in all of history. The Lord Jesus Christ called him the father of all lies, the greatest liar ever in the history of the world. And I told you that those servants who he uses will teach false information. In 1 Timothy 4:1, *"... some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and from the doctrines of demons."* People that abandon the Word of God and go for the false, go for the lie. If Satan can control what you think and what you believe, then he can control what you do. We are exhorted over and over again throughout the New Testament to learn God's plan so we could execute it, so we could fulfill God's desires for us, that we might glorify Him and have a full wonderful meaningful life. Ephesians 3:20 says all glory belongs to God whose power is at work in us for this very reason. Thus the demand we become spiritually mature and accrue wisdom in our soul so we can fulfill the plan of God. The importance of learning the wisdom of God is educating the simple or the spiritually brain-dead individual. In Proverbs 1:4 they are called *"the youth who need knowledge and discretion."* As I've told you the principle, destroy the thinking of the youth and you can destroy the client nation. I showed you where Satan's attack on client nation USA is to capture the thoughts of the young people who are ultimately the future decision-makers in this country. He does this through the abundance of social media which is an appeal to emotions and not a challenge to the intellect. The whole concept of humanism, human viewpoint, is rampant on social media. Emotions are wonderful. I get excited when I catch a great big giant bass - I yell attaboy you caught him, you know... If my football team wins I get excited, but emotions are not an initiator, they are not designed to dictate policy; they are just an appreciator, not an initiator. They give us the ability to appreciate but not to discern. **If you are going to discern right and wrong, if you are going to discern what your life must be about - it's not about emotionalism, it's about thinking.** This is where the devil is really good in humanism promoting all sorts of emotionalism in the life of so many young people today. The reality so many young people are committing suicide tells you they are living by their emotions. So accurate thought requires accurate information at a young age; and the first thing you have to learn as children is obey your parents, honor your father and your mother. That's authority orientation and respect for your parents. In Proverbs 3:1 David wrote to Solomon, *"My son, do not forget my teaching, lest your heart fail to obey my instructions."* And so failing to teach authority orientation in the home results in a soul out of control and making decisions that are detrimental to self. The word *simple* in Hebrew means those who had no divine standards. The youth, who are the simple ones, rely on their emotions (not content) when they make a decision. Simple means naïve or seductable or easily persuaded and enticed. And here's the principle: **with no divine operating standards, an individual is easily persuaded to step into sin. He is a credulous person which means he's ready to believe a lie.** The simple minded

person, the one Proverbs 1:3 talks about, is the person who has no Biblical frame of reference. If he has no Biblical frame of reference than he must operate on artificial intelligence. As a friend of mine who's a pastor once said, artificial intelligence is made up of arrogance and ignorance (AI), put these two together and you have artificial intelligence. Arrogance always starts with self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption and eventually leads to self-destruction. Ignorance is just simply thinking human viewpoint and disregarding divine viewpoint. Where do we get divine viewpoint? The Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). *"Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should; but think in terms of humility, as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word"* (Romans 12:3). So there is the concept of learning God's Word, living God's Word, learning the mind of Christ. Guess what the mind of Christ is? 1 Corinthians says it's the Bible. The writers of the New Testament wrote what Christ thought, what He did, how He lived His life and it's an encouragement to us as well. So if someone doesn't have a basis to determine what's right and what's wrong then they will be easily persuaded to step into an arena that they should not enter. James 1:14-15 says, *"Every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed [that's a temptation]. Then when the lust is conceived [that's the sin], it brings forth sin; and sin when it's finished, brings forth death [temporal death]."* So being tempted is not a sin. But when you let the temptation come to fruition and conception, then it becomes a sin and the sin, if you are a Christian, brings forth death: temporal death, being temporarily out of fellowship, the Holy Spirit quenched and grieved - but it's not spiritual death. You remain spiritually alive in Christ Jesus. God doesn't make you spiritually dead when you sin. That's not the way it goes. *"When Christ, who knew no sin was made sin for us we were made the righteousness of God by means of Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). So if young people get an early exposure to sinful flawed behavior, it scars up their souls, it scars up their heart. Paul wrote about this in Ephesians 4:18-19: *"being darkened in their understanding, they get excluded from the life of God, because of their ignorance, and because of the hardness of their heart; and they become callous and allow themselves to be betrayed to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greed."* This is what happens when there is no soul rapport with God. **When a person is spiritually brain-dead he is darkened in his understanding and he has nothing to do with the plan of God because of ignorance.** He hasn't been taught anything, he hasn't seen the difference and his heart gets hard and becomes callous and he betrays his own soul. So Proverbs 1:4 says, *"to the youth give knowledge and discretion."* Youth is a young person, usually under the age of 20, but age doesn't matter. They need knowledge - perceptive skills built on wisdom and understanding. Proverbs 2:10-11 says this about knowledge, *"When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge becomes pleasant to your soul; discretion will preserve you and understanding will keep you."* We call this the fantastic four. Wisdom in your heart, knowledge is pleasant to your soul - that means you like it, you want more of it. **So when you get knowledge you gain wisdom, and through wisdom you get discretion and understanding, and it protects you from self-destruction, protects you from arrogantly**

destroying your own life by bad decisions. Psalm 119:9, *“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your Word.”* In Proverbs 23:19, *“Listen, my son, and be wise and direct your heart in the way.”* In Proverbs 22:6 (a word to parents), *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”* That's not a promise he will eventually come back to fellowship with God, but it is a promise he will never forget what you put in his soul by information you taught him and by the illustration you presented him as he watched you live your life. He may never come back. He may walk away from the plan of God. But he will always have that information in his soul you fed him, what he saw, what he heard; but through his own volition he rejected it. So here are some principles: (1) Without perception skills no young person can tell when they're being manipulated. In Genesis 3:1, *“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [the serpent] said to the woman, ‘Yeah, has God said, you should not eat of the tree of the garden?’”* He manipulated Eve. He manipulated her arrogance. He fed her arrogance and she sinned, took a bite of the fruit and eventually gave it to Adam. So we know he's a master manipulator. The Bible says in 1 Peter 5:8, *“Be alert, have a sober mind, because your enemy, the devil, is prowling around like a lion looking for someone to devour.”* If he can identify you as a person who's not prepared, simpleminded, then with social media, humanism, progressivism, he can destroy you. (2) The tragedy of many youth is they have no ability to recognize the lies of socialism and humanism since social media starts dominates the thinking of so many. You can't tell what's fake and what's true by looking at your phone. That's a problem. Where do you get your truth from? ‘Oh I get it from my phone.’ Well how about getting it from the Bible? That's much more accurate and dependable than a phone. (3) A reason for this flaw in the mind of one who is spiritually brain-dead is the parent did not teach him, nor demonstrate the wisdom of God to him at an early age. Had that been done then the person would have an opportunity to spot the lies of Satan and recognize when they're being manipulated. Thus, Proverbs 3:1 (David's words to Solomon), *“My son, forget not my laws, but let your heart keep my commandments.”* (4) If you do not capture the thoughts of a young person (if you don't establish a FLOT line of divine viewpoint in their thinking at an early age) they will be lured into human viewpoint, humanism at a later time. How? Through movies, social media, sex, drugs. The cosmic system is always recruiting the thinking of your children and your grandchildren. The only thing you have to counter it is: *“The Word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even unto the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit, of the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12). Put the Word of God in the souls of your children and grandchildren and they will have a chance. They still have to make their own decisions; the cosmic system is not going to quit recruiting them. (5) Our most effective weapon against the lure of the cosmic system is prayer. If our children have bought into the devil's lie, at least we can cover them with prayer. Ephesians 6:18, *“Pray in the Spirit in every situation, use every kind of prayer and request there is for the same reason, be alert and use every kind of effort and make every kind of request for all of God's people.”* Praying for

your children and your grandchildren is a magnificent opportunity. You can approach the throne room of God through the filling of the Holy Spirit and have an effective prayer life for your family. But if you're out of fellowship with unconfessed sin in your life - remember, the Bible says, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart. The Lord will not hear me"* (Psalm 66:18) - so if we have sin in our life there will be no answer to the prayer. If you are going to have an effective prayer life you must pray under the filling of the Holy Spirit. It's a flaw for parents not to teach, not to demonstrate God's Word. Using prayer is a wonderful way to protect your children. Now, guilt in a parent is not good. Your job, my job, is to expose our children to God's plan and encourage them to follow it, beginning with believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. A broken heart in a parent is not guilt. A lot of parents are brokenhearted but that doesn't mean they're guilty. It means their children have used their own negative volition to go against what their parents taught them. It happens every day. Your parents teach you divine viewpoint, your parents teach you the love, kindness the generosity of God, and you reject it; and it breaks your parent's heart but that's not guilt. Guilt in a parent is a parent who didn't teach divine operating assets, who didn't help his simpleminded child understand the delusion and deception of the devil and then watches his child self-destruct because he didn't teach it to them. Adam and Eve had a son named Cain and he murdered his brother Abel. Both sons had the same information, both sons had the same parents, but they had different volitions. One adhered to the plan of God, had enough humility to obey the plan of God and the other one did not. So that could happen in your children too. You can have two great children and two lousy kids. Same parents, same information, but it's up to their volition. (7) Children have their own volition and we cannot coerce them nor can we manipulate them into responding to God's invitation. If you read the Prodigal Son illustration in Luke 15 you'll remember this, how he approached his father and wanted his share of the inheritance now and the dad didn't try to talk him out of it, he didn't try to convince him not to go, he knew it was a waste of time. The kid was so stupid he had to learn the hard way. And here's a maxim, an aphorism you should remember: stupid decisions get people hurt. Bad decisions limit future options is one way of thinking about it. Another way is stupid decisions get people hurt. And it was a stupid decision of this younger son to take his share of the inheritance and blow it all and almost wind up dead, until he came home and saw the error of his ways and confessed his sin. This is the believer out of fellowship going down the my-way-highway and almost dying the sin unto death until he rebounds and gets back in fellowship with God. So children have their own volition. You can't coerce them, you can't manipulate them, you just have to give them the facts. If knowledge is pleasant to his soul, then an individual will enjoy the taste of feeding on the Word of God. It's that simple. In Matthew 5:6, *"Happiness belongs to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."* This is a person who has knowledge being pleasant to the soul. He hungers and thirsts for knowledge. Righteousness is knowledge there. So what you think is the secret to how you live. **If you're going to avoid being spiritually brain-dead then you have to have some information upstairs. Let the mind of Christ be in you, learn the Word of God.** Proverbs 23:7 *"As a man thinks in his heart, so he*

is.” You are the sum total of your thoughts - not your emotions. God is looking at what you're thinking, your motivations, intentions, and desires; He is not looking at your image or style. He's looking at your mind. So if knowledge is pleasant to your soul this means you enjoy the taste of feeding on God's Word. What do you think is the secret to how you live in your life? The Bible clearly states, *“As you think in your heart, so you are”* (Proverbs 23:7). You can think in terms of arrogance or you can think in terms of humility. Romans 12:3 *“Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, but think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each of us a standard of thinking from His Word.”* The concept of humanism is arrogance. God does not want you to be trapped in arrogant humanism - it's important you understand this because arrogance uses human viewpoint and academic theory as criteria for life rather than the Word of God. Human viewpoint disregards God's plan and God's mandates found in Scripture. Thus someone trapped in human viewpoint is living opposite of what the Bible says, divine viewpoint. Human good is the devil's lie distorting the laws of establishment. For example, the idea of government trying to abolish sickness, economic problems through legislation, human solutions, is evil. The world's problems can never be solved apart from the Word of God and the laws of divine establishment. A great distortion is organized religion where human good is touted over faith alone in Christ alone. The free gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to have eternal security and to enjoy living the plan of God in time. And that's not what humanism tells you. ‘Be good, live a nice life and God will cut you slack when you get to heaven’ - not true. I hope you are learning. I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Stress Indicators

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 749 aired on December 29, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host, Rick Hughes, please hang with me giving you information to help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life so you can orient and adjust to it. We always say that adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. I want to remind you about this because that's what we're going to talk about today. Before we get into it, let me remind you this show is now on podcast - type in The FLOT Line - and you'll be able to hear our shows on your phone wherever you are. We are also beginning to put them into print. Hopefully it won't be too long for the first FLOT Line book. We're producing a transcript so you can read instead of just listen. It's up to you. If you want to grow - good, I am glad, but let me remind you that I am not a pastor, I'm an encourager. I want to point you to a well-qualified pastor you can get under and "*grow in grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). I want to give you the good news that Jesus Christ is God's anointed Son and that He alone paid for our sins, and His death, burial and resurrection guarantee us eternal life through faith in Him. The FLOT Line is designed to teach God's Word and those ten unique problem-solving devices. Did you ever get the problem-solving device bookmark? I'd be glad to send you one. It has all ten problem-solving devices listed on that bookmark. Remember the first one is always rebound. This is where we solve the problem of sin in our life by rebounding or confessing our known sin to God, "*If we will confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us and to purify us from all wrongdoing*" (1 John 1:9). Rebound leads us to the filling of the Holy Spirit which solves the problem of the genetically formed sin nature. We have a battle within us. It's always going on. The Bible says, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh*" (Galatians 5:17). They are contrary one to the other and so you have to learn how to control the sin nature through the filling of the Holy Spirit. That leads us into the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God, executing the Christian life with faith; then grace orientation, biblical orientation, having a personal sense of destiny, developing personal love for God as your number one motivational virtue in your life, using your impersonal love for others as a wonderful way to handle people problems and people testing in your life, then sharing the happiness of God which does away with worry, and being occupied with Christ. Those are the ten problem-solving devices. You should be able to recall them, see them in the Bible and use them in your life. The whole idea is: once you learn these ten unique problem-solving devices, then use them and it's possible to stop the outside source of adversity (whatever it may be) from becoming inside stress. **So remember, adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. Because adversity is what those circumstances actually do to you but stress, well, that is something you do to yourself.** Are there stress indicators? Yes, let me give you a couple. **If you find yourself worrying you are involved in stress.** You are told in the Bible not to worry. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ you need to understand that worry is a mental attitude sin and it's a self-torment of anxiety regarding anything. So if you get into worrying, it's a disquieting and painful state of mind that involves much concern over something in your life. This painful uneasiness of your mind always

anticipates the worst. If you are worrying and have this anticipation and apprehension of danger, misfortune, trouble, disaster coming - uncertainty in your life - it's a horrible way to live. You are in a state of restlessness. You are always agitated and it produces some mental disturbances, foreboding anxiety, and painful uncertainty. Worrying is a horrible sin. It destroys your ability to think and to use the faith-rest drill; and if you don't check it, it can actually lead you to be mentally ill. Often get a warning first with a physical problem because worry in your mind can actually cause a shock to your body. Proverbs 12:25, "*Worry in the heart of a man weighs it down, but a good word produces a super abundance of happiness.*" So with worry, the solution is always the Word of God; understanding the unfailing love of God so you don't worry and can have the abundant happiness He promises. **God will never, ever, hang you out to dry.** "*We love Him because He first loved us*" (1 John 4:19). But if we have fear, worry and anxiety in our soul, then we lose the great happiness we're supposed to have because of the garbage in our subconsciousness. As a result of this garbage, happiness goes away. So the happiness that God has for you, +H: problem-solving device #9, can actually remove worry, the worry that brings you into carnality - sinful worry. **You can't fulfill the life of God if you worry.** Psalm 100:5, "*For the Lord is absolutely good; and His unfailing love is everlasting, and His faithfulness is to every generation.*" So what is there to worry about? We'll never know the greatest happiness in this world if we lose the battle of worry in our soul. So if you naturally like to worry, that's a major source of sin in your life. Listen to Deuteronomy 31:6-8, "*Be strong and courageous, don't be afraid nor tremble.*" Isaiah 41:10, "*Do not fear, for I'm with you; do not anxiously look around, for I am your God. I will help you.*" You see, worriers have to have an object. What is it that you are worried about? Is it money, your health, the future, is it politics? Worrying is a horrible thing. Sometimes if you can't find something to worry about, you may make it up in your mind. Worry is a sin. Worry and fear are both mental attitude sins. Both ignore the promises of the Word of God, the doctrines that characterize the Word of God. Worry doesn't solve any problems whatsoever. It actually will distract you from growing spiritually and take away blessing that God may have for you. Listen as I read these passages from the Bible on worrying. Worry is a stress indicator. Philippians 4:6-7, "*Do not be anxious about anything....*" This "*do not be anxious*" is a verb that means do not take thought that causes anxiety or worry. "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.* [that's through the filling of the Holy Spirit and through the faith-rest drill] *And then the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:6-7). "Then," not while you are worrying. Worrying is your sin nature getting proactive in your life, but we want the Word of God to be proactive in your life. We want you to use the faith-rest drill in your life. And "*it will guard your heart and your mind.*" Remember, upstairs in your head, over your eyes, are your heart and your mind. The mind is where we receive information; the Bible calls it the *nous* or the mind. But the Bible also refers to the heart of man and it is not talking about the thing that pumps blood in your chest, it's talking about the *kardia* upstairs. You see, the mind is where you receive

information, but the heart is where you store it. The heart is where you respond to information; the heart is where it becomes part of you. That's where your conscience is located, that's where your frame of reference is located. God wants you to store His Word in your heart. You are never allowed to worry, never. So listen to Proverbs 3:5, "*Trust the Lord with all your heart...*" - there it is. We are not talking about the organ that pumps blood, we are talking about that part of you that thinks - the responder is not the receiver. The receiver is the mind, the responder is the heart. "*Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding.*" That's where your worry comes from. You try to think what might happen, what could happen, what is going to happen and you have no idea what God has designed to happen. In Matthew 6:25 the Lord Jesus Christ Himself said, "*I tell you, do not be anxious for anything about your life...*" There's that Greek word again. Now I told you in Philippians 4:6-7 the Greek word is a present, active, imperative. The present tense means you are never to do it. The active voice means the subject produces the action of the verb. The subject is you and me. The imperative mood is a command. We are commanded, never, ever, ever to worry. So the Lord Jesus Christ uses the same verb and the same tense (present active imperative). Not only are you not to worry today but you are not to worry tomorrow and you are not to worry the next day. The active voice says you are the one that is not to worry and the imperative mood is the command. What does Jesus say you should not worry about? Don't worry about your life. Don't worry about what you are going to eat. Don't worry about what you are going to drink. Don't worry about your body or what you are going to put on. He goes on to say, "*Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than those little birds? And which one of you by being anxious [that's worrying] can add a single hour to your lifespan? And why are you worrying about your clothes? Consider the lilies of the field and how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all of his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*" (Matthew 6:25-29). God has the perfect clothes, God has the perfect look. If you are worried about what you are going to wear, worried about what you have or don't have, worried about how you fit in with the crowd because you don't dress like they dress, you are not hip like they are hip - it's a sin, it's a waste of time. The Lord provides. He can provide for you. In Proverbs 3:5-6, "*Trust in the Lord with all of your heart [the word I just gave you; that word "trust" is a Hebrew verb that means to have absolute confidence in the Lord or to be secure in the Lord] do not ever lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your path.*" So in both the Old and New Testament we are told never ever worry. Worry is a stress indicator. By learning those ten unique problem-solving devices we do not have to have worry. We are told this with direct orders in the imperative mood from the New Testament. So if you like to worry, you are disobeying orders from God and you are sinning. So how can you stop worrying? Is it possible? Yes, it is very possible. (1) If you recognize the strength of your emotional attachment to safety and security then you will understand the need for lack of mental stress. So you have to quit letting your emotions take over. It's your emotions

that feather the worry. It's your emotions that don't think, they just react. The Bible says, think, think, think. *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). *"Think on these things, whatever is pure, whatever is holy, whatever is right, think on these things"* (Philippians 4:8). The Christian life is a life of thinking and utilizing God's word in your soul, in your heart, and not letting your emotions attack you and run you and control you. Worry comes strictly from the emotions. So if you are going to overcome worry, stop letting your emotions control you. Use the Word of God, confess your sin when you get afraid, ask the Lord to cleanse you from it, go to His Word, claim a promise and stand on it. (2) So use rebound to confess your lack of trust. 'What do you mean I don't trust?' Well I just told you the verse Proverbs 3:5, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."* If you are worrying you are not trusting. If you are worrying you are assuming unassigned responsibility. It is not your responsibility, it is God's responsibility. So confess your lack of trust. 'My lack of trust in what?' Your lack of trust in the plan of God for your life and the provisions that He gives you. You are telling God that you don't think He's doing a good job and so you are going to worry about it. That's terrible. (3) Learn and execute the faith-rest drill. That's how you overcome worry. When the Pharaoh chased the Jews out of Egypt and cornered them by the Red Sea, Moses said, *"Stand still and watch what God is about to do"* (Exodus 14:13). There was no room for worry, no room for fear. Proverbs 3:1-2, *"Do not forget My laws but let your heart keep My mandates because length of days and long life and peace and soundness they will add to you."* Did you hear that? Let's listen again, *"Do not forget my laws [the Word of God] let your heart [there it is again, the responder] keep My commandments [that's obedience, that's positive volition to the Word of God; and if you will obey God's word] length of days and long life and peace [peace - the Hebrew word shalom which means tranquility of life and safety and soundness] they will add your years."* All right, here we go. Let's back up one more time to listen carefully. *"Don't forget My law, let your heart keep My mandates for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you."* Proverbs 3:6-7 says, *"in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths smooth [now listen to the next verse, number seven] "Don't consider yourself wise."* You know, people that think they're smarter than God, people that think they have it figured out, that's nothing but arrogance; that's intellectual arrogance spinning out of emotional revolt of the soul. **God has a perfect plan for you and if you will learn the plan and use the plan, you never have to worry, you never have to be afraid, you can have complete self-confidence and complete happiness in the plan of God.** So, if you will confess your sin, recognize it, admit it, then you can resume your spiritual momentum every day by taking in the Word of God on a daily basis. I'm going to say this straight up. I believe this with all my heart. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and you are not studying God's word consistently, you will never grow spiritually and you will never come to the place where you want to be - where you will have complete happiness, complete peace, and complete understanding of God's plan. If all you do is play around with the Bible, get a couple of verses, claim a couple of verses, read a little bit everyday - that's not growing. The Bible is a textbook. It is designed to be taught to you. It is not designed for you to read it through

once a year which is fine, that's not a sin, I'm not saying don't read it. But I'm saying if you took an algebra book and went outside under the oak tree you wouldn't figure it out unless you had a teacher. The Bible requires a teacher. God gives men the gift of pastor-teacher (Ephesians 4 pastor-teacher). The pastor-teacher's job is to teach you God's Word; he has a spiritual gift. And once you find that pastor-teacher and sit under him, you can begin to take in the Word of God consistently in your life every day. Learn, take notes and review them. What you are doing is you are shaping your mind, you are changing the way you think, you are picking up divine viewpoint, you are obeying what Romans 12:3 says, *"Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think; but think in terms of humility, as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word."* **The Christian life is about shaping the way you think, changing the way you think so that your heart lines up with the will of God for your life.** And you're not wise. You have nothing to be wise about. The Lord is wise. He's the One that knows the plan and has the program. And you can never learn it if you don't study it and understand it by having it explained to you. I know you think you can get it all by yourself but you can not. So you must get under the ministry of a great pastor, you must stay filled with the Holy Spirit, you must use the faith-rest drill, and learn and use these ten problem-solving devices. Then you will give maximum glorification to the Lord Jesus Christ because you will represent Him to your friends, you will reflect Him in your life by the way you think. When people see you, they'll see Christ because of the way you think, because of the way you act and live. That's a wonderful thing. Worry is a terrible sin, and so also is self-pity. There's another stress indicator. I went to a website called gotquestions.org and I copied this from there. Listen to what they said, "Every human being is prone to self-pity. We are born self-centered, with a powerful drive to protect our egos and our 'rights.' When we decide that life has not treated us as we have the right to be treated, self-pity is the result. Self-pity causes us to sulk and obsess over our hurts, real or perceived. At the heart of self-pity is a disagreement with God over how life - and He - has treated us." Wow. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 11:28, *"let a person examine himself"* and in 2 Corinthians 13:5, *"examine yourself to see if you are in the faith."* Self-pity is eyes on self and that is a real trait of arrogance and self-centeredness that you can't allow yourself to get into. Because through spiritual growth you can take command of your own self. You can have spiritual autonomy and stand on your own two feet. But without spiritual growth then you have to use defense mechanisms. You have to use feelings that arise in response to perceptive danger like worry and you hide the real feelings and the real cause of your anxiety. Self-pity is a terrible sin. An emotionally arrogant person can use elusions or hallucinations and even fantasizing to cope with the stress in their life. But you don't have to have stress - we have been telling you that - stress is optional, adversity is going to happen, but stress is optional. So self-pity just piles garbage up in your soul. Things like guilt and hatred and implacability. Is it possible for you to live without self-pity? Is it possible for you to live without worry? Is there really a life without stress? Absolutely! Job was the man who faced it all. But what about Adam and Eve, did not one of their children murder his brother? Did that cause them to have any anxiety? You know, the

Bible records Job losing all of his loved ones and all of his property in one day in Job 1:13-19. This was allowed by God because Satan sought to discourage Job and turn him against God and God didn't think he could do that. Listen to what Job said when all this happened to him. *“Then Job arose and tore his mantle and shaved his head, and fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said, ‘Naked I came out of the mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gives the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.’ So in all of this Job sinned not, nor did he charge God”* (Job 1:20-22). That’s using faith to orient and adjust. That's using faith. And that verse teaches that the mature believer has no reason to fear death. No reason to fear anything dangerous. No believer is going to die until God says it's time to come home; and once He says it's time to come home, I don’t care where you are, you are not going to be safe. So if you are worried about dying, you need to worry about living. The living go on living and the dying go on dying. A person in dying grace never hinders anybody else from living. That's true. So you can have a stress free life, a life of perfect contentment and happiness based on your understanding of all of God's grace provisions. You have to learn it before you can execute His plan. That's why Jesus said, *“Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me”* (Matthew 11:29). And Solomon said in Proverbs 1:22, *“How long will you simple people love simplicity? And how long will you fools hate knowledge?”* Knowledge is what you've got to have because it gives you insight and discernment and understanding. Gosh, I threw a lot at you this morning. I hope you got it. I hope I didn't offend you. It’s pretty straight talk. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

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