

Our Unique Life - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 616 aired on June 18, 2017

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please, please stay with me. It's going to be a time of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and we do this without any manipulation. Surprise. No games, no gimmicks, no appeal for money. We're not asking you for anything. We're not trying to sell you anything. We're not asking you to join up, fess up, give it up - nothing like that. This show is dedicated to one thing only, to give you some accurate information. Information which I pray will help you verify and identify God's plan for your life. And if you can do that then you have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. It's up to you because no one can live your life for you. And by the way, **you cannot change anyone but yourself.** You are the only one that can change you. You may have friends or children or grandchildren, you're not going to change them. They have volition just like you have volition and we can only change ourselves. So how do we change? What do we do? Well, first of all we have to know what our options are. If you don't know what your options are then you don't know which way to go. Somebody once asked Yogi Berra when you come to the fork in the road which one do you take? And Yogi had some kind of funny answer about that. The one less traveled, I guess. But you know, people don't know what to do sometimes. And so it's very critical you understand your options, your choices. This is why learning the Word of God, understanding the mind of Christ is so critical. This is exactly why God gave you a Bible and put the Holy Spirit to live inside of you, to guide you, to be a mentor, to tutor you. And this is exactly why God gives you a pastor, to study and teach God's Word and to lead you, as a shepherd leading sheep, in your Christian life. My prayer is that you will be under a well-qualified pastor, that you will learn God's Word under a well-qualified pastor and that he will stick to his job of studying and teaching God's Word. The study that I'd like to begin with you now, a little study I'd like to do for the next few weeks, is a study entitled "The Unique Life That We Live." You and I are really unique people and I want to give you a new fresh appreciation for God's grace provisions if you stick with me. That's what this study is designed to do, give you a fresh appreciation for God's grace provisions. Also, I hope to give you a new self perspective. In other words, a new sense of your worth in God's eyes. And hopefully give you a view of the impact that you should have in the arena of contention that we call earth. So I may review some things you already know and I could remind you of what you might have forgotten or hopefully I'll reinforce what your pastor has already taught you. I want to study The Unique Life That We Live. And so what about this word unique? I have a few weird friends that are rather unique but that's not the thing I'm talking about. As an adjective this word means solitary in type or characteristics or having no equal or being unusual. So what I want to develop for you over the next few courses of this radio show is this unique life we live as believers in the devil's world. Saying that you are a bit unusual may be funny and you may know that to be a fact but the truth is you have no equal. And I'm not being narcissistic but it's a true doctrinal statement from the Word of God. It's not a reference to your unique church or

your unique ministry. It's a reference to you. You are a unique individual. You have unique assets, you live in a unique time, you have a unique opportunity in your life in that time, you face unique challenges that no one's ever faced before, and you have a unique future. But before we can look at any of that we have to see first and foremost the most unique Savior in the world. Perhaps your pastor has covered His birth for you around Easter and you looked at that, you examined that. You saw the life and work of the Lord Jesus Christ and it's quite an exhaustive study if you get into it. My pastor, my own pastor has been teaching the life of Christ for over one thousand hours right now. And, by the way, that's all available free of charge on MP3 or DVD. This is how I study. I keep up with it. A thousand plus hours on the life of Christ. You say how could anybody study a thousand hours on one subject? That's not hard, my friend, when you're looking at the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. And we benefit from those insights, from the illustrations that my pastor and your pastor teaches us. So let me skim over a few things, I bet you remember these things, before we get into the meat of the study. Our Lord Jesus Christ had a unique birth, He had a unique life and He had a unique death. So the birth of Christ fulfilled numerous Old Testament Scriptures. You remember the prophecies given centuries before He even walked on this planet. We were first introduced to the fallen angel Lucifer or Satan, a.k.a. we know him as the devil, in the form of a serpent who sought to use Eve's arrogance as an attempt to vindicate his own sinful actions in eternity past. So let me give you a few principles here. Here's the first one. Satan used the beauty of a snake. The Bible says that he *"was more subtle than any beast of the field,"* and he used that beauty to arouse the curiosity of the woman and deceived her by baiting her very own arrogance. And point two, she took the bait, Genesis 3:6, and she deliberately disobeyed God's mandate that was given to Adam in Genesis 3:15 and 17, don't eat from that tree, anything else you can eat, that one tree don't eat from it. And point three, she was able to convince Adam to partake of the same fruit that had been forbidden, much to Adam's regret. Point four, sin uncovers you, sin exposes you to the guilt and the shame. Sin exposes you to the elements. When they ate of that fruit the Bible says in Genesis 3:7, *"their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked."* Prior to that they didn't even know they were naked, they had no guilt, they weren't thinking about the elements. So point five, this deliberate interference by the devil, a.k.a. Satan, resulted in a curse being placed on that once beautiful serpent and condemning that serpent to a life of eating dust. In Genesis 3:14, *"dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life."* And that's a metaphor for crawling on his stomach from now till the end of time as we know it and you know it. Most people if they see a snake they're going to kill it. There are a few snake lovers and they don't want to hurt them and I understand that also. But to me, depends on what kind of snake it is. I see a lot of snakes when I'm fishing and I don't mess with them. I give them plenty of room. Eve would have been better off not to mess with that snake. Point six, by means of Adam's rebellion the entire human race (me and you) we're all condemned as well. Where did I get that? Romans 5:12, *"By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin and so death has now passed to all men, for all have sinned."* And point seven, our redemption was promised by means of a prophetic judgment on Satan by God in Genesis

3:15. This is, in Genesis 3:15, the first promise of a Redeemer. In Genesis 3:15, *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. And he shall bruise thy head, and you shall bruise his heel.”* The seed refers to satanic offsprings, unbelievers. John 8:44 says, *“You're of your father the devil, in the lust of your father you're going to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, he did not abide in the truth because there's no truth in him. When he speaks a lie he speaks of his own for he's a liar and the father of lies.”* Her seed, well that refers to all of humanity beginning with Cain and eventually all humanity into which our Lord Jesus Christ came - He was inserted. Why? For the express purpose of redeeming me, redeeming you, purchasing us out of the slave market of sin. Listen to Romans 3:24-26, *“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. [there's the redemption] who God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God, and to declare [verse 26 of Romans 3] I say at this time His righteousness that He might be just and the justifier of those who believe in Jesus.”* So point ten, the stage was set for the entrance of a redeemer, one who would eliminate the argument of Satan once and for all, as well as satisfy the justice of God in regards to man's fallen state. Point eleven, His birth was unique in the fact there was no human copulation involved. Yes, she was engaged to be married to Joseph but there was no sex. Matthew 1:18, *“...she was found with child of the Holy Spirit”* which was a fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14. Isaiah 7:14 says, *“Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel.”* So point twelve, His unique birth caused a national crisis. A few weeks or months later the Magi showed up. You know, if they saw the star at the moment of His birth, it would've taken them some time to arrive in Jerusalem. Matthew 2:1 talks about these Persian Magi or magicians or scientists. But they were looking for the king of the Jews. And Herod who was the king at that time had been selected by the Roman Senate to be king of the Jews himself and he was even an adopted Jewish convert, you know, just to keep the peace. Really he was an Edomite and he rebuilt the Jewish Temple. And when the Phoenician Magi came to Bethlehem they were looking or actually they came to Jerusalem then he directed them to Bethlehem with instructions that they should report back where this new king of the Jews was so he could go and worship him too. That was not his real intention. Matthew 2:13 says his real intention was to kill Him. And this information prompted Joseph to take his family and get out of Dodge. Joseph and Mary and baby Jesus moved to Egypt until Herod died, Matthew 2:15. Herod, when he learned that the wise men took off and didn't come back and didn't report back to him, he was so angry and so upset that he went to Bethlehem and he killed every child from two years old and younger. That's what a wicked evil man Herod was. Once they returned from Egypt, after Herod died, they settled in Nazareth. Thus Jesus our Lord and Savior was known as a Nazarene in Matthew 2:23. So that's His unique birth. What about His unique life? Remember, this was not an ordinary man. **This was the God-man. God and man in one body forever - hypostatic union theologians call it.** God-man. The God-man. John 10:30, *“I and My Father are one.”* John 10:33, *“The Jews answered Him saying, ‘For a good work we*

stone you not, but for blasphemy because you being a man make yourself God.'" In John 8:58, *"...before Adam was, I am!"* In John 1:1, *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."* Jesus Christ was tempted by Satan during His evidence testing. He had a unique life. Before He began His ministry in Matthew 4 He was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tested. You should read Matthew 4:1-4 and see how He handled it because every test that Satan threw at Him, our Savior quoted Scripture. And there is your secret to passing the test. Using the faith-rest drill means knowing Scripture. This is why it says, *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."* So He was tempted by Satan during His evidence testing. And, by the way, if you have any intention of growing to be a mature believer, you will be tested as well. **You will go through evidence testing.** You will have to take the witness stand alone and demonstrate that you are faithful. And so our Lord never sinned during His entire time on this infested planet. In spite of all the hateful, vindictive people He encountered in the area of organized religion He never sinned. Never. And thus in 2 Corinthians 5:21, *"He hath made Him [He being God] to be sin for us, the One who knew no sin so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* So in three short years, this is what's amazing, He took a group of dumb fishermen (like me, a dumb fisherman), tax collectors and others and made them world changers. They rocked their world. Think about this. Imagine if He took a group of dumb fishermen, a few tax collectors and some others, imagine what He could do with you with your intellect, with your ability. Think about it. **But you've got to be willing to follow Him.** He told Peter, *"Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."* Whatever it was that was about Him which is so unique, Peter walked away from the family business and followed Jesus and so did Peter's brother, Andrew. Jesus Christ our Lord has a unique priesthood the Bible says. In Hebrews 7:21-22 the Bible says He's the first and the only high priest in all of human history who was filled with the Holy Spirit. And the Bible says He's the only high priest that's ever been resurrected from the dead. He's the only high priest who ever offered His own self as a sacrifice for the sin of the people. And He is the only high priest that can provide eternal life for the entire human race beginning with you because He makes intercession for us. Intercession for us as a high priest every day. Hebrews 7:25, *"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a high priest was fitting for us - One who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners and has become higher than the heavens."* Yes, He's seated at the right hand of the Father. That's His unique life. His unique birth, His unique life, the God-man, our high priest. And what about some of the unique things He did while He was on this planet? I mean I can't list them all but let's start with this one - He walked on water. Not many people can walk on water. I mean there's a few drunks that think they can until they drown but Jesus walked on water. In Matthew 14:22, *"Immediately, He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side while He sent the crowds away. And after He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. And when it was evening, He was alone and the boat was already a long distance from the land*

battered by the waves [they were rowing their hearts out] the wind was contrary [probably blowing in their face and they were rowing and rowing, they didn't have an outboard motor]. And in the fourth watch of the night, Christ came to them walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified and they said, 'It's a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take courage. It's I. Don't be afraid.'" Yes, He walked on water. In Matthew 8:26 He calmed a stormy sea with one word - stop. All He had to say was stop and all of the Sea of Galilee became slick as glass. He raised the dead. In Mark 5:35-42, *"While Jesus was speaking some people came from the house of Jairus [the synagogue leader] and they said, 'Your daughter is dead,' they said, 'why bother the Teacher anymore?'* Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, *'Don't be afraid; just believe.'*" See Jairus had gone to the Lord to try to get Him to come and heal his daughter and they all said she's dead, don't bother Him anymore, she's dead. Jesus said don't be afraid, just believe Me. *"He didn't let anyone follow Him, except Peter, James and John the brother of James. And when they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion with people crying and wailing. He went in and said to them, 'Why all the crying? Why all the wailing? The child is not dead, just asleep.'* And they laughed at Him. So He asked them all to leave and He took the child's father and mother and the disciples were with Him and they went into where the child was. And He took her by the hand and He said to her, *'Little girl, I say to you, get up.'* And immediately she stood and began to walk. She was twelve years old, and at this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to tell anybody about this and to give her something to eat." You know that wasn't the only person He raised from the dead. He raised Lazarus from the dead and in John 11:38-44, *"Then Jesus again groaning in Himself came to the tomb and it was a cave and a stone lay against it and Jesus said, 'Take away that stone,' and Martha, the sister of Lazarus said, 'Lord it's been long enough now he's going to stink. There's a stench in there. He's been dead four days.'* Jesus said, *'Did I not say to you that if you would believe in Me, you would see the glory of God?'* And they took away the stone from the place where he was lying and Jesus lifted His eyes and said, *'Father I thank you that You hear Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people that are standing by, I said this so that they may believe You sent Me.'* And when He said these things, He cried with a loud voice, *'Lazarus, come forth!'* And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes. His face was wrapped with a cloth. And Jesus said to them, *'Let him loose and let him go.'*" I want you to remember **He will raise you from the dead also.** First Thessalonians 4:16 says, *"... the dead in Christ shall rise first."* I conducted the funeral this week for a wonderful saint in the town of Memphis, Tennessee. I told the people in the attendance there, *'She's not dead. She simply left this sin infected body.'* And He will raise you, same way. You've got to leave this body. It won't work in heaven. You've got to get a new body. A resurrected body like His. You know, He fed the masses with just five loaves of bread and two fish - five thousand people - heck, the quick burger places can't do that (Matthew 14:19). If you showed up with five thousand people on a bunch of buses they'd have a heart attack and shut the place down. Jesus

fed them all. Speaking of fish, one of my favorite miracles is found in John 21:4-11, where they caught 153 fish in the net. It was the third time they sighted Jesus after His resurrection. *“And it was early in the morning and Jesus was on the shore and the disciples didn't recognize Him and He called them. He said, ‘Friends, have you caught anything?’ And they yelled back, ‘Nope, nope, nothing.’ And He said, ‘Well throw your net on the right side of the boat and you'll find some.’ When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. And then the disciples, whom Jesus loved, said to Peter, ‘It's the Lord!’ And he wrapped himself in his outer garment. Well, as soon as Simon Peter heard a guy say it's the Lord, he wrapped his outer garment around himself because he took it off [I guess he was fishing in his underwear or something] and he jumped off the boat and started swimming to Jesus. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish. They were not far from the shore, maybe one hundred yards [the Bible says] and when they landed they saw fire with burning coals and it had fish on it and some bread and Jesus said, ‘Bring some of those fish you just caught.’ And Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore himself. It was full of large fish, 153 so many so but the net was not even torn.”* I like to catch fish. I find it interesting that they said how many fish they caught - 153 - that's a fisherman for you. What an amazing Lord we have. In all, total, He performed more than forty miracles during His time on this earth. I would say He is the unique person. There is some kind of beer commercial on television, you know, a beverage commercial that claims to introduce the world's most interesting man. The most interesting man in the world is an advertising campaign set up by Dos Equis - some brand of beer, Dos Equis. And then the ad features the world's most interesting man, a bearded, debonair gentleman with a voiceover that is intended to be humorous and outrageous. Not even close. An actor is not the world's most interesting man. **The world's most interesting man is Jesus the anointed Son of God, the Savior of the world, our Redeemer, the One who walked out of the grave alive, the One who will come and live in you if you let Him.** Paul said, *“Christ in you the hope of glory.”* The most amazing thing in the world is that Jesus will live in you. When I accepted Christ as my Savior, I prayed a simple prayer. I simply asked God to save me. And I was told, *“Jesus stands at the door and He knocks if any man hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in unto him.”* I didn't understand what the verse meant but I knew I wanted to have a relationship with Christ and I asked Him to come into my life and save me. I didn't feel it. I mean, I didn't see the lights flicker or I didn't hear any tambourines, but it happened. Christ lives in me. And if you are Christian, He lives in you. Our job is to replicate His life and to re-present Him to our family, to our friends. How do we do that? By acquiring the mind of Christ, beginning to think like He thought. We don't have to look like Him. We just think like Him. That's why the Bible says, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus, who thought it not robbery to be equal with God made Himself of no reputation and humbled Himself all the way to the cross.”* What an amazing Savior we have. What an amazing God we have. Our God, our Savior, our Redeemer, our justifier, our Lord - Jesus Christ. He is the most unique man. He is the most unique man in the history of the world. If you haven't met Him and if you don't know Him, you are missing out.

You want to be a name dropper? You drop that name and see what happens. Tell somebody you met some celebrity and they roll their eyes, but tell somebody that you met Christ and they look at you like you are weird. He's there and He's waiting for an appointment with you. Ask Him. He's right there. I hope you'll join me next week, same time, same place. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Our Unique Life – Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 617 aired on June 25, 2017

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host, as usual, Rick Hughes, and thank you for listening this morning. Please stay with me it's only going to be a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and no manipulation. No asking for money. No selling you anything. No asking you to join up, fess it up, give it up. Nothing like that. It's just simply a show with accurate information - not human speculation now - but accurate information. Information that will help you verify as well as identify the plan of God for your life. And if you can do that, then you always have the freedom and the privacy, because you are an American, that you can orient and adjust to the plan if you would like to. The plan starts with a personal belief in Jesus Christ as the anointed Son of God. And in the study last week we started on "The Unique Life We Live," and we would like to continue that study with you - the unique life we live. But before we go any further, we started talking about the unique person that we serve. And that is, of course, Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God. We looked at His unique life, His unique birth, some of the unique things He did and now we want to look this morning at His unique death because Roman capital punishment was the same for all enemies of the state. It was always death by crucifixion. And the victim, whoever it was, was left on display for hours in order to deter others who might attempt the same sort of crimes. But before they crucified them they would always scourge them or flog them and it was done before every crucifixion took place. You know, kind of weaken them down and prepare them for the slow torturous death they would die on the cross. The scourging was intended to bring a victim to a state that was just short of death. I can read to you from Mark 15:15 where the Bible says Pilate wanting to gratify the crowd released Barabbas (and he was a murderer), he released Barabbas to the crowd who demanded Barabbas rather than Jesus be released and then he delivered Jesus, the Bible says after they had scourged Him, to be crucified. Scourge Him is the Greek word *mastigao*, *mastigao* and it is a method of scourging described in the Mishnah (the Jewish book of the Mishnah). It was the use of three thongs of leather and the offender would receive thirteen stripes on the bare breast and thirteen on each shoulder and that is the forty stripes save one. And that was administered to Paul the apostle five times, according to 2 Corinthians 11:24. So this was done to our Lord Jesus Christ after the six trials that they put Him through the night before they crucified Him. Six illegal trials. You say you didn't know about that. Well, **His unique death included those six illegal trials.** In John 18:12 He had His first trial before Annas the mob boss. Annas was the former high priest and now his son-in-law, Caiaphas, was the high priest. So the first trial, they took Him to Annas and he wanted to see Him and he gave them the thumbs up. All right, let's proceed with this. He was the money man in town. He was the big guy. So that's John 18:12 if you want to look at it. And then in Matthew 26:57 they took Him to Caiaphas, the high priest. And Caiaphas made his pronouncement, cursing and beating. And then in Luke 22:66, early the next morning before the council of chief priests and scribes (they had to make it official, see it was not legal to try criminals at night and they had to wait till daylight) so when

the daylight came, they took Him to the chief priests and the scribes and again, more harassment, more beatings and that was the third trial. And then the fourth trial, Jesus was taken to Pilate at the hall of judgment in John 18:28. And then the fifth trial, Pilate sent Jesus over to Herod since he didn't want anything to do with it and found out that Herod had jurisdiction over Jesus and Jesus wouldn't even talk to Herod. That's Luke 23:8. And Herod sent Him back to Pilate. And **finally in the sixth trial Pilate scourged Jesus and complied with their wishes even though he declared himself that Jesus was innocent of all charges. In John 19:6, "...I find no fault in Him,"** he said. Now you may wonder if he found no fault in the Lord Jesus Christ, why, in fact, would he have Him crucified? What was the reason for that? And the reason was it was politically expedient for him to do it because the Jews said, 'If you don't crucify Him we're going to go to Rome and we're going to tell Caesar you're no friend of his.' And so they put enough political pressure on him that he would go ahead and crucify Christ. Now, in regards to His unique death, listen to what I'm about to tell you, the cross did not kill Him. **Jesus Christ voluntarily gave up His spirit, the Bible says. The cross did not kill Him.** In Luke 23:44, "*Now about the sixth hour [which is noon] and there was darkness over all of the earth until the ninth hour [that's 3 o'clock]. And then the sun was darkened and the veil of the temple was torn in two.*" Remember the temple of the Holy of Holies is where the high priest would go and he would sprinkle the blood of the innocent animal over the Ark of the Covenant to symbolize the death of the Savior, the Redeemer who would die for the sins of the people. And so that veil was torn from top to bottom emphasizing there's no longer any need for any lamb to be sacrificed since Jesus is the one and only Lamb of God who died to take away the sin of the world. And so the Bible says in verse 46 of Luke 23, "*When Jesus cried out with a loud voice...*" Mark 15:34 says it, "*... 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which is translated, [out of the Latin into] 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'*" And He said then these words, this is what Jesus said, listen, this is why I said the cross didn't kill Him, He said, "*...Father into Your hands I commit My spirit.' And having said this, He breathed His last.*" **He willingly gave up His spirit.** Remember now, if you're a Christian, you have a body and you have a soul and you have a human spirit. If you're not a Christian, you have a body and you have a soul, but you do not have a human spirit - you are spiritually dead. And so being born again, or accepting Christ as your Savior, being born again means the human spirit is reactivated by means of God the Holy Spirit who comes to indwell you and live in you. And the human spirit is reborn. So when our Lord Jesus died, His body was on the cross and His soul and spirit went to be with the Father. Actually there's a lot more to it than that but we'll leave it at that for you right now. It's not my intention to get into all the exact details of what happened on the cross. Your pastor can do that and I'm sure he does an amazing job. My pastor does an amazing job. But it's my intention to highlight those actions in those final hours on the cross. Here's something. This is very unique. **Christ forgave the people that carried out the orders to kill Him. In Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them, [this is the Roman soldiers] for they don't know what they're doing."** So He was actually interceding for those Roman soldiers that mocked Him. One, notice, one person who

was crucified with Him turned to Him in faith. Remember, there were three of them up there. You see three crosses all across country, in my travels, I mean, I may be in Mississippi or Alabama or Tennessee or wherever, Texas, and I'll see a yard that has three crosses in it. That's symbolic of Jesus and the two that were crucified with Him. Well, one of those two turned to faith in Christ on that cross. He turned to Him in Luke 23:42 and he called Him Lord [which is *Kurios*] he said, "*Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.*" And Jesus verified his request and said, "*Assuredly, I say to you that today you will be with Me in paradise.*" Paradise was Abraham's bosom. It's known as Sheol in the Bible and it had two compartments. It had the compartment of Hades or the compartment of torments and it had the compartment of blessing, Abraham's bosom. And when our Lord was crucified, He ascended into that compartment of blessing and He took all those Old Testament saints with Him to heaven. That's an amazing study to see that. The principle that I'm telling you is **it's never, never, never too late to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. Not even if it's in the dying phase of life.** Do some people get saved on their deathbed? Yes, they do. This man was saved on that cross. That's why the Bible says in Psalm 95:7-8, "*...Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your heart...*" In 2 Peter 3:9, "*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise [that's to come back and set up His kingdom] as some people count slackness, but He's long-suffering towards us and not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*" Now this doesn't mean to feel sorry for your sins. That's what some people tell you, that in order to be saved you've got to feel sorry for your sins. That's a joke. The only reason you feel sorry is you got caught. You won't feel sorry for them when you do it again the next time. And don't say I'm never going to sin again after I get saved. Yes, you will because you have a sin nature and your sin nature has a lust pattern and all of your life you will fight the lure of the world and the lust of the flesh and the maneuvering schemes of the devil. All your life you'll fight that. So don't think you're not going to ever sin again. But when we talk about repentance, the Greek word, there are three or four words here, but the word here is *metanoia*. *Metanoia* means in association with your mind or to change your mind. And see you've been an unbeliever, now you become a believer. You've changed your mind. You've repented. That's what the word is. Turning from sin in repentance is not salvation. Get that down. Remember that. **Turning from sin in repentance is not salvation.** It is not possible for anybody to turn from sin as long as they still have a sin nature. Repentance is believing in Jesus Christ as the anointed Son of God. That's why the Bible says, "*He that believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.*" That's why Paul said, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.*" That's why Jesus told John, unless you're born again you won't see the kingdom of God. You had to repent. You had to change your mind. I am the Messiah. I am who I say I am. In 1 John 5:1, I quoted that verse, "*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.*" So Jesus didn't tell Nicodemus to repent of any sin. Listen to John 3:14-17, "*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up [that's the cross] so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. [those are the words of Christ, didn't say believes and repents, it said whoever believes in Him will have eternal life] For God so loved the world that He gave His*

only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him [again, Jesus said it] shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." One famous evangelist that's very famous put it this way (I heard him just recently say it), 'If we confess our sins and repent and believe on Him as our Savior our deplorable sins are washed away and we can have right standing before God.' Bless his heart, that's not true. We don't have to repent of our sin. We don't have to confess our sins to get saved. To get saved, you simply do what the Bible says, "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" The Bible says, "*For by grace are you saved through faith, it's a gift from God not of works.*" So if you would like to be saved, in other words, if you would like to be born again or, in other words, if you would like to repent or if you would like to have eternal life, you simply believe that Jesus is the Christ. **And you can express that faith to God in prayer and simply tell Him, 'Father, I believe that Jesus Christ is Your anointed Son and I am willing to accept Him as my Savior.' That's all there is to it. That is a simple act of faith alone in the finished work of Christ alone.** You see, on the cross He redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. He paid the penalty for our sin. Your sins are already judged and paid for. You have to remember that. So repenting of your sin, promising God you're not going to sin again, confessing your sins - those things are not necessary to believe in Jesus Christ. And anyone that tells you that, is not telling you the truth. The uniqueness of our salvation is that the work is completed, already finished and done. While it's true that Peter tells unbelieving Jews in Acts 2:38, "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" What's he saying? Repent. Change your mind. You do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah, you must repent, you must change your mind. And then he said and be baptized. And that is to be associated with Christ. That's an outward identification to the other Jews that they are associated with Jesus Christ. Paul never told any Gentiles, rarely, maybe one or two, but rarely did he tell Gentiles they needed to be baptized. He said, "*God didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel.*" Paul made it clear in Romans 1:16 when he said, "*I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, it [the gospel] is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.*" Wow. He also said in 1 Corinthians 1:17, "***Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel [that's the power of God] and not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.***" So my job is to give you the correct information and the job of God the Holy Spirit (who lives in me and will live in you if you're not saved yet) He will use the information I give you and encourage you to change your mind about Christ. Is He a liar? Is He a fraud? Or was He who He said He was? I think the resurrection pretty well proves that no one's ever walked out of the grave alive except Him. And He's alive today and He will come and live in you. You can have the most magnificent relationship with Jesus Christ living in you. "*Christ in me the hope of glory,*" the Bible says. Do you know the anointed Son of God will live in you? His power, the Holy Spirit will live in you. That's amazing. But it only happens by faith. "*For by grace are you saved through faith, it's a gift of God not of works.*" Would you like to have a new life? Would you like to be a new person? Would you like

to start all over at age 40 or age 50? Then believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be born again. Your human spirit will be made alive and you will have fellowship with God by means of the Holy Spirit who will indwell you. And now you'll have a spiritual birthday. You see, you're either going to be born twice or you're going to die twice. Your first birthday is physical. Your second birthday is spiritual - that's when you're born again. What about the two deaths? The first one, *"It's appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment."* And the second death, What is that? *"Whoever's name is not found written in the lamb's book of life [according to the book of Revelation] was cast into the lake of fire - this is the second death"* the Bible says. We have a unique Savior. He lived a unique life. He had a unique birth. He had a unique life and He had a unique death. And now we have a wonderful unique opportunity. I would like to go over some of your unique assets that you have. Assets that God gave you when you believed in Jesus Christ and received Him as your Savior. You see, once we receive Christ as Savior we enter into the most amazing life the current world has ever seen. Unknown, unseen in the Old Testament, the life we live, but we experience it now. It's called the mystery doctrine of the church. In Romans 16:25-26 Paul wrote, *"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for so long ages past, but is now manifested and by the scriptures of the prophet according to the commandment of the eternal God has been made known to all the nations leading to obedience of faith."* The mystery. **The mystery is Christ in you. Colossians 1:27, "To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of His glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."** Christ living in you, the Shekinah Glory of the Old Testament who resided in the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle will take up residence in you. In Romans 13:14, *"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust."* This means that we can assume a different identity even with a new personality profile. Yes, a person who believes in Jesus Christ can go from being a jerk to a good guy. He gets a new personality profile if he takes on the mind of Christ. That's why Romans 12:3 says, *"Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, but think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word."* Wow. First Corinthians 2:9, *"However, as it stands written, 'The things the eye has not seen, nor the ear heard, nor the mind has ever conceived what God has prepared for you.'"* That my friend is in time as well as in eternity. Yes, personal love for God is a fantastic motivational virtue that He responds to and He has amazing things He'll pour out in your life. Ephesians 3:20 says, *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundant above all that we ask or even think, according to the power that works within us."* The power within us, the *kata dunamis energeho en hemon*, the Greek word power within us. **What is that power? It's our operational assets. The assets that enable us to stand apart from unbelievers in the devil's world.** You know, let me ask you a question, come on, is it possible that most church age believers never really tap into their available assets or reach their full potential due to lack of consistent momentum in their spiritual life? I mean, sure, for a time they get hot-to-trot for God and then they cool off, they go to camp

and they get hot-to-trot for God, then they cool off, they have a revival and they get hot-to-trot for God, then they cool off. See, these distractions and deceptions that Satan brings into your life are designed to keep you from ever advancing to maturity. You must not let that happen. This power that works in you, these operational assets that God gives you, gives you the ability to stand apart from other people in the devil's world. So we're under divine orders. We must present ourself to His service. We must know our orders and we must stay in step with Him. And we must even sense (and this is something people don't tell you) you must even sense the Commander's intent without having to be told. Men in the military know what I'm talking about. The commander's intent. He doesn't have to tell them. They know what he wants without him telling them. They know what he expects and that's you with God. **God doesn't always have to tell you what He expects. You should, as you get to know Him and as you fellowship with Him, you can sense what He expects from you.** In Romans 6:13 the *New American Standard Bible* says this, "*Do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness but present yourself [and here we have an imperative mood Greek verb *paristemi* which means to put yourself under orders] but present yourself to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*" Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. And this is what God expects from you. 1 Corinthians 3:16, "*Don't you know you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defile the temple, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy and you are the temple.*" I'm telling you unconfessed sin in your life will lead you to an early death. If you quench and grieve the Holy Spirit by getting into sin and not naming that sin or trying to hide that sin from God, you're going to die an early death. You're not going to redeem the time. You're not going to have the type of life God has designed for you because you're going to be under divine discipline all the way to an early grave. You may be on your way now. You may need to take a look at why you're suffering and what's going on. Maybe God is trying to get your attention. I know your body is the residence of your sin nature. And that sin nature, if it controls your body, the lust of the flesh (it could be an alcohol lust, a drug lust, a sex lust, a money lust) it could be anything but if it controls you, the damage that it will do will overflow into your soul, into the mentality of your soul, into the thinking of your soul. And that's why Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:19 that you can get so calloused that you will be insensitive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and you will turn your life over to the lasciviousness and you will pursue it with greed. That's what sin can do to you. You must not let that happen to your life. You must keep reins on your sin nature. That's why it's imperative when we sin, we rebound (problem-solving device #1) because without rebound you quench the Holy Spirit and grieve the Holy Spirit. But if you will go to God and confess your sin as per 1 John 1:9 then "*He will be faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.*" This is the secret to staying in fellowship with God every day. Don't wait until you go to bed at night. Don't wait when you know you sinned, you immediately quench the Holy Spirit, you immediately grieve the Holy Spirit. When you know you sinned, confess your sin to God immediately. Tell Him the truth and He's faithful and just to forgive you.

And that way you can maintain fellowship with God twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. But if you sin and hide it or you sin and you don't admit it, you will come under discipline from God as He seeks to get your attention and wants you to rebound the sin and get back in fellowship with Him. Think about these things. Consider what I say. May God give you understanding. Until next week when I come back, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you, thank you, thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Our Unique Life – Part 3

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 618 aired on July 2, 2017

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next thirty minutes stay with me, please, will you? It's going to be thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education. And we always do this without any type of manipulation, no games, no gimmicks, no appeals for money, not asking you to join anything, not want you to fess up, give it up - nothing like that. This show is simply about giving you accurate information. Not human speculation. Information from the canon of Scripture called the Bible and hopefully that'll help you orient and adjust to the plan of God. My job, verify and identify the plan of God. Your job, orient and adjust if you would like to do so. The FLOT Line deals with the forward line of troops. If you've never heard this show before - F.L.O.T. - Forward Line Of Troops. And what we're teaching is we're using a military analogy to explain how if you'll learn ten unique problem-solving devices and use them as a forward line of troops in your soul then you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. That's why we always say adversity is inevitable and stress is optional. So the Christian life is a very unique life. We live in a unique time in history and you have the most unique life in history. And we began a series two shows ago on this unique life that we live. And when we stopped off with our last message we stopped off talking about our unique assets. And what I said was, once we receive Christ as Savior, then we enter into the most amazing life the current world has ever seen. I don't know if you remember that, but I made that statement. I said, this life is unknown and unseen in the Old Testament, but now we experience it. We are in the church, the body of Christ, the church. No one in the Old Testament knew this would even exist. It was called the mystery doctrine and yet here we are. Jesus Christ living inside of you. The same Christ that resided in the temple of the Shekinah Glory is in you. 1 Corinthians 3 teaches, *"Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?"* It's Christ living in you. So it is an amazing time and we have all of His assets. We are to assume His personality profile. The Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* And the Bible says, *"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh."* So we are to think like He thought and we're to have the same personality profile that He had. And we do all of this, all of these things. Ephesians 3:20, *"Now to Him who is able to do all of these things exceedingly abundantly above all we could even ask or think, according to the power that works in us."* And that power is the Holy Spirit. It's the Holy Spirit, problem-solving device number one, rebound allows you to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Because as a believer you'll sin and when you sin you'll break fellowship with the Holy Spirit. You don't lose your salvation. It's not that you're no longer a Christian because you committed a sin but the Holy Spirit is quenched and grieved in you and you cannot live God's plan for your life in the energy of the flesh without the power of the Holy Spirit. It's impossible. The Christian life functions on the power of the Holy Spirit. And so when I sin, and I sin just like you, I have to use problem-solving device number one, go to God and confess my sin. And this is where the Bible says, *"if we'll confess our sin, He's faithful and just*

to forgive us and purify us from all wrongdoing.” So that's **problem-solving device number one, rebound, confessing my sin and it opens the door to problem-solving device number two, the filling of the Holy Spirit. I can live my life as a Christian in the energy of the flesh or I can live my life in the power of the Spirit.** The Bible says, *“The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh; these are contrary one to the other.”* So you can't live in both. You can't put one foot in and one foot out. If you've quenched the Holy Spirit and grieved the Holy Spirit it's because you've sinned. When you sin you're out of fellowship with God in time. You don't lose your relationship but you are out of fellowship. And we rebound to get back in fellowship. We rebound to claim the filling of the Holy Spirit again. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 says, *“Don't you know that you're the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you?”* That's how unique you are. This wasn't in the Old Testament. Only a few people were endowed with the Holy Spirit. Now every Christian, every Christian that hears my voice today or the voice of any pastor-teacher evangelist who communicates the truth, they are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit. That's how unique we are. Verse 17, *“If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy for the temple of God is holy and you are the temple.”* That's a warning. When we get into sin and we fail to rebound then we set ourselves up for the sin unto death. If you don't rebound, if you commit sin and don't confess that sin to God. Some people say you have to repent but they don't know what the word means. It means to change your mind. Repent is *metanoia* to change the way you think. And this means you have to acknowledge that it's sin and you confess the sin to God and He's faithful and He's just to forgive you. Will you be tempted again? Sure you will. And so that's why your Christian life is a life of volitional decisions. You have to make a decision every day. Will I wake up? Will I shower? Will I brush my teeth? Will I go to the Word of God? Will I listen to a pastor teach me the Word of God? Will I apply the things that I learned? Every day we have to make decisions. That's how we advance in the Christian life. There's no one-shot deal. There's no one-shot miracle where you can go to a retreat and become automatically super spiritual. That doesn't happen. So, as we live in these unique times with the unique assets that we have, we have the ability to reside in the devil's world. But there's always those temptations, always those distractions. Remember, you fight against the world, the flesh and the devil. The lure of the world, the lust of the flesh and the lies of the devil. In 1 Timothy 4:1-2 the Bible says, *“The Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy and having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”* To sear your conscience with a hot iron is the Greek word *kauteriazō*. *Kauteriazō* is the Greek word sear and we get an English word from it, cauterize. I don't know if you've ever had a skin surgery or not. I had a small skin cancer taken off my arm recently and to stop the bleeding they cauterized it. You know and you could smell it. They're burning it away. And that's what cauterizing is like when the cowboy would brand the cow and put the brand on him. He would take that hot branding iron and press it into his hip. He's branded. Sin brands us. It cauterizes us. And so when we have our conscience seared with a hot iron, that means we have scar tissue. Scar tissue on the conscience.

And that scar tissue can keep you from ever feeling guilty, it can keep you from ever feeling conviction, it can stop your conscience from working. And this is exactly what Satan wants to do. Those who spread false doctrines, those who spread lies in the latter times have their minds branded with demonic thinking, demonic doctrine. It's called doctrines of demons. Now listen, no believer can be demon possessed. That's impossible because the Bible says, "*Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.*" But a believer can be demon influenced. He can buy in to the doctrine of demons. He can believe a lie. And I have seen it happen. I have seen sound, fundamentally sound, wonderful people change their mind about what they think the Bible says and move away from the things they learned to things that not even true any longer. And so the Bible warns us put off the old manner of man, put off the old habits, put off the old actions which are corrupt and lead to deceitful lust and be transformed and here's the word repent, be renewed, transformed, in the spirit of your mind, change the way you think and put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and in true holiness. So what are the mechanics for putting on the new man? If I just said, 'Hey my friend put on the new man.' What exactly does that mean? Well, one, here it is, one, if you use your volition to advance spiritually, you're putting on the new man. That means that you are **taking in God's Word on a consistent basis under the authority of a well-qualified pastor.** Now I'm going to be honest about this. If you're a believer in Jesus Christ and you don't spend time studying God's Word daily, it's going to take you a long time to ever advance to be spiritually mature. And you're not going to do it by doing a fifteen minute morning devotion with some book you bought at the bookstore. Listen, I recommend you sit under the ministry of a great pastor who can teach you God's word and there a lot of guys out there. You've heard me say it over and over again, they offer their Bible studies free of charge. They don't sell anything. My own pastor has been teaching the life of Christ well over one thousand hours and you can get any of those thousand hours. They're yours free of charge. Other pastors that I know across this country have tremendous ministries. And that's what I do on a daily basis, sit down with a notebook, with a Bible, listen to my pastor teach me God's Word. You have to do that. **You have to use your volition to advance spiritually.** If you're not growing, if you're not studying, you're not advancing. You're going backwards to tell the truth. But secondly, the second mechanic for putting on the new man is to change the way you think. **The Bible tells us quit thinking human viewpoint. Learn to think divine viewpoint.** 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.*" And then, number three, change the way you relate to life. In other words, now once you're beginning to advance in God's plan, if you're going to put on a new man, you have to live with grace orientation. You have to orient to the grace of God which means, number one, you know you're saved by grace and you know you're living by grace and you know there's dying grace, there's even surpassing grace when you get to heaven. But living by grace is an amazing thing. Grace - I operate my ministry that way. Sometimes people are amazed that we don't ask for money. Sometimes when I speak in schools or other places that I speak, they want to know what

the charge is and I say nothing and they like, well how do you do it and I say grace. If God's in it, God pays for it. I learned that from my pastor many years ago. Don't go around with your hand out. Any Christian that has got his hand out trying to raise money is not depending on grace, he's trying to do it himself. So I keep my mouth shut. I don't even talk about money and God supplies the needs. It's that simple. He graces me out. He graces you out. He graced us out in eternity past. He graces us out every day. I bet you can give me illustrations in your life just this past week where God protected you, where He blessed you, where He promoted you, where He graced you out. And you are supposed to grace other people out. That means you don't seek revenge, you're not bitter, you're not implacable, you grace out even those whom you don't like. God graced you out in eternity past where it says, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.*" That was before you were born, before you even came on the scene. God loved you. Did you deserve God's love? No, you're a jerk just like me. We're both just jerks and yet He loved us and He saved us. Why are we jerks? Because we're identified with Adam's original sin. We were born spiritually dead. We're sinners. We have a sin nature. And even though we believe in Jesus Christ and are born again, it doesn't subdue the sin nature, it's still there. The only thing that will subdue your sin nature is when you get a new body in heaven. Once this body checks out and goes back to dust, then you'll get a new body, a resurrection body. It will not have a sin nature because it will not be associated with Adam, like the one you're in now. That's why you hurt. That's why you're getting old. That's why things are going on in your body you don't understand. It's Adam's association. It had to happen that way. "*By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin is passed on to all.*" Spiritual death yes, and physical death yes. So we change the way we relate by using grace orientation. And here's another way, point four, you change your goals. If we want to put on the new man, we have **to think in a different way on our goals in life and that's having a sense of destiny.** See, having a personal sense of destiny, that's problem-solving device number six. Grace orientation, that's problem-solving device number five. Divine viewpoint is biblical orientation, there's another problem-solving device. These are all problem-solving devices and put them together and they make the FLOT line of your soul. So these are all done, all of these things - using your volition to advance spiritually, changing the way you think, changing the way you relate, changing your goals - they are all done by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit plus the grace apparatus for perception. The grace apparatus for perception is a Bible and a pastor in privacy and you have those three things available to you. If you use your volition to get it, then you can allow the Holy Spirit to coach you, mentor you, tutor you as Jesus said He would do. **He uses the Word to tutor us. He uses the Word to guide us.** If you don't have the Word of God, then there are no barriers that He can direct you to. That's what He uses. That's why I just keep insisting that you grow spiritually by getting under the ministry of a qualified pastor. So another thing unique about us is the imputation of eternal life. Eternal life in John 10:28-29, "*I give unto them eternal life, and they will never perish. Neither shall any man ever pluck them out of My Father's hand.*" The invitation of eternal life alone is completely amazing. I mean, just think about it, you are going to

live forever. Death can have no victory over you. Yes, in the Bible, in 1 Corinthians 15:55, “*O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin and the strength of sin is the Law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” We have eternal life. That's an amazing asset. But we also have assets that we can use in time. You've got a Bible don't you? God gave you a Bible, a canon of Scripture. If you're like me, you've got more than one Bible. And it's not designed to ride around in the back window of your car. It's designed to be a textbook, not a novel. Reading the Bible through once a year doesn't do anything for you. Glad you did it. Wonderful. Hooray. It's not a novel. **The Bible is a textbook. It's designed to be taught to you by God the Holy Spirit through a qualified pastor.** So the canon of Scripture is a Bible. Hebrews 4:12, “*The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit and the joints and marrow, as a critic of thought and intents of the heart.*” Yes, you have a Bible. That's an asset available for use in time. Secondly, you have an asset available for the use in time of the filling of the Holy Spirit. He's the One who enables us to use these assets. And then thirdly, the induement of individual spiritual gifts. You have a spiritual gift. A gift for service in the body of Christ. It's not earned, it's not deserved, it's not acquired by some emotional experience. When you were saved, it was given to you and it becomes operational by means of your spiritual growth. **Every person listening to me has a spiritual gift if you're a believer. Not all have the same gift. Some are pastor-teachers, some are evangelists, some have the gift of helps, some have the gift of mercy, some have the gift of giving, some have the gift of administration.** There's no thing like the gift of singing; **that's a talent not a spiritual gift.** So people need to understand what the spiritual gifts are because you've got one. That's where you fit into the body of Christ. It's critical you understand that the spiritual gift is important. In 1 Corinthians 12:11, “*But one in the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*” So that's the Holy Spirit giving us those spiritual gifts. Giving (Romans 12:8), helps (1 Corinthians 12:28), mercy (Romans 12:8), administration (Romans 12:8), service gift (Romans 12:7). There's some of them listed right there with the Scripture verses. My pastor once said that spiritual gifts are the basis for the team concept in the royal family of God. In other words, your spiritual gift determines the position you play on that team. No matter how inconspicuous or how insignificant your gift may seem to be, you are on the team and your gift is critical and just as necessary as any other gift. Another one is you have been given the provision of a well-qualified pastor as an asset in time, someone to oversee you, to shepherd you. First Peter 5:2, “*Shepherd the flock of God [Peter wrote] which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion, but willingly, and not for dishonest gain [you hear that? not for dishonest gain, but what?] but to be a shepherd [an overseer, one who looks over, who exercises and observes the authority within the congregation].*” Your pastor is held responsible by God for the direction and the administration of His body of believers. His job, he must keep an eye on all that goes on using your gift, the service gifts in the congregation to keep him advised, keep him informed. He can't do all the work. And so he's an overseer. To have oversight

episkopeo, overseer, means he looks upon, he exercises full control, to look at, to understand. It's a compound word, *epi* + *skopeo*, two words together and means to fully look at, to fully observe. And so God gave you that man, that pastor. You want to know, finding your right man or your right woman is a significant thing in your life. Who am I going to spend the rest of my life with? You know what I'm talking about? You know equally important (I was going to say much more, maybe so) is finding your right pastor. The person you will spend the rest of your life with as the shepherd of your soul. The pastor who will look over you. See, one of the problems we have in modern Christianity today is we hire these pastors and two or three years later we run them off and get another one. Or they use the church as a steppingstone to go to the next bigger church and the next bigger church and the next bigger church. Where are these men that are willing to stick it out with their congregation? That shepherd that pastors a congregation 15, 20 years, 25 years. My own pastor, pastored his church fifty-three years before the Lord took him home. His son is now the pastor and he's been there thirteen years teaching God's Word. What about your pastor? How long has he been there? Has he stuck it out or is he a Johnny-come-lately, come and go? Does he teach God's Word or does he seek to fire you up emotionally with some kind of emotional service to get you all fired up for Jesus and send you out into the devil's world? That doesn't work. You don't get fired up for Jesus. **You grow up spiritually and replicate Jesus, replicate His life, re-present Him. It's not an emotional thing. It's an intellect that lives.** Your whole spiritual life is lived in your soul. *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* *"Whatever a man thinks, that he is,"* the Bible says. That's where you live your spiritual life - between your ears. And that's what God checks on when He wants to check on you - what you're thinking. So it's important that you learn that. Another way of understanding assets that God has given us is we have new vocabulary. Now that we have a spiritual IQ, not just a human IQ, we can develop new terms, new concepts. Learning to think in a different way. It's called thinking divine viewpoint and it's the motivation behind any decision you have to make while you're still here on this earth, or as my friend, one pastor said, as long as you're still in the arena of contention. So God, you know, He inspects our human thoughts. He evaluates our progress as believers. He checks out our motives and our intentions and our desires. If you didn't know that, Revelation 2:23b says, *"...I am He who searches the mind and the hearts and I will give to each of you according to your production."* **We have an amazing promise associated with thinking divine viewpoint. If we do that, the Bible says in Isaiah 26:3, "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusted in Thee."** Perfect peace. No worry, no fear, no animosity, no hostility. What a wonderful way to live. And who does it? *"Thou will keep him in perfect peace."* God the Holy Spirit does this for you. He sustains you. In Psalm 119:165, *"Those who love Your Law have great peace and nothing causes them to stumble."* This is not a peace that comes from the justification of salvation. This is much more. It's much more than just being justified by faith. This is a peace that you are living your life to the fullest extent of God's plan and you are comfortable in your personal sense of destiny and you know that God is in business twenty-four hours a day. The Supreme Court of heaven is open, you can always take

any complaints to Him. It's a life living free of anxiety, free of worry, free of depression - free. Wonderful. Philippians 4:6, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* That's an amazing life. That's a unique life and only a mature believer can enjoy those things. I hope you're listening. I hope you're learning. And I hope you will come back next week. As always, same time, same channel, same station. Until then, I am your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Our Unique Life – Part 4

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 619 aired on July 9, 2017

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I would give you an invitation to stay with me. It's going to be a little bit of time, just thirty minutes, motivation, some inspiration, some education. And you know we do this without any type of manipulation. We're not trying to raise money. We're not trying to sell you anything. We're not asking you to join up, fess it up, give it up. All I'm really asking you to do is listen up. Listen to me as I explain God's wonderful, phenomenal problem-solving devices. Let me show you how if you can establish a FLOT line in your soul then you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. Because adversity, we all know that's inevitable and stress well, not everybody knows this, but stress is optional. And the reason is **adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress, well that's what you do to yourself.** So the FLOT Line is an invisible protective barrier made up of wonderful problem-solving devices found in the Bible. Ten of them at least. And if you learn them and use them, then you can have this most phenomenal life. You have phenomenal assets. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, if you've accepted Him as your Savior, you must develop a FLOT line. You must know these problem-solving devices for your spiritual life to be effective. Because you have assets available for you to use in time. As long as you're in the arena of contention, which is called the devil's world, as long as you're here, as long as you're logging time down here, then these assets are always available to you. And it starts off with the first asset is the Bible, the canon of Scripture. God gave you a Bible and that's an amazing asset. Some of you own more than one Bible. Let me remind you that the Scriptures were written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic and there's so many different types of Bibles out there today - it's the number one selling book in the world. I mean, if you're a lonely hearts club, they've got a Bible for that. If you're a tree hugger, they've got a Bible for that. If you're a fisherman, they've got a Bible for that. If you're single, they've got a Bible for that. The single Bible, the fishing Bible, the hunting Bible. It's all about selling Bibles because it's a moneymaking machine. We don't sell anything here but I recommend you have a Bible. And, most of all, **I recommend that you sit under a well-qualified pastor that can teach you the Bible from those original languages out of the Greek and out of the Hebrew.** You might not know this, for example, if the Bible says that you're to love me, there are in the Greek New Testament four different Greek words for love. That only translates into English in one word - love. But in the Greek it could be *agapao*, *phileo*, *stocleo*, *erao* and the pastor has to tell you which love it is. When I say, do you, do we, do you, I said it three times, well in Romans 7:15 there are three different words for do, three different Greek words. So knowing the languages is critical. And so you have a Bible, you have a pastor, your Bible is a textbook, not a novel, it's designed to be taught to you. You also have the filling of the Holy Spirit which is a phenomenal asset because Jesus Christ our Lord said when He went away He would send His Spirit and He would be your mentor or your tutor and He would help you. And then you have also your individual spiritual gift. Your gift that God gave you when you got

saved is where you fit into the body of Christ. You didn't earn it. You didn't deserve it but it's an asset. And the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 12:11, *"But one and the same Spirit works all these things distributing to each one individually as He wills."* Some people have the gift of giving, some people have the gift of helps, some people have the gift of mercy, some people have the gift of administration, some people have the gift of evangelist, some people have the gift of pastor-teacher. There are several different gifts: giving (Romans 12:6), helps (1 Corinthians 12:28), mercy (Romans 12:8), gift of administration (Romans 12:8), gift of service (Romans 12:7). All of these spiritual gifts are the basis for the team concept in God's royal family. It's where you play on the team. And the quarterback is not any more important than the tight end, the tight end is not any more important than the linebacker or the fullback or the tackle. You are just as important as the pastor. Your job on the team is to re-present Jesus Christ. So that pastor is a grace asset for you. A well-qualified pastor and overseer, the Bible calls him. Peter told the pastors to, *"Shepherd the flock of God, the ones that are among you, serving as overseers and not by compulsion, but willingly, and never for any dishonest gain."* That word overseer is a compound word, *episkopeo* is the word and it means to fully look over, to fully watch. And so your pastor has responsibility by God to watch over the direction administration of your local church. So that's important for you to understand that. It's important for you to know that that's one of your assets - a well-qualified pastor - and his job is to keep a watch on things, make sure they go right. You know, God inspects our human thoughts and evaluates our progress as believers. It even tells us that in Revelation 2:23, *"I am the One that searches the minds and the hearts and I will give to each of you according to your production."* So we have all these amazing promises associated with the assets that He gives us. And if we think divine viewpoint, if we think God's Word, not human viewpoint, but divine viewpoint, then we have an amazing lifestyle. Just let me show it to you. When the Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,"* when the Bible 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."* When those things like that are there, this is what it means. **In Isaiah 26:3, "I will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusts in Thee." That's the faith-rest drill, problem-solving device number three, trusting in God in spite of the difficulties, in spite of the circumstances.** So there's one, having perfect peace, that's a relaxed mental attitude, that's being able to close your eyes at night not worried, not afraid, not shaken, not shivering. In Psalm 119:165, *"Those who love Your Law have great peace and nothing causes them to stumble."* Now this is not the peace that comes from being saved, that's a different peace. Romans 5:1-2 says, *"We have been justified by faith and we have peace with God through our faith in Jesus Christ."* But this is beyond that. This is a living faith, not a justification type faith. And so Paul talked about it in Philippians he said, *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God [and then here it comes, ready, listen] and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and mind through Jesus Christ."* Guard your

heart and mind, what does that mean? Well, it means you have a mind (m.i.n.d.) that's called in the Greek New Testament your *nous* and that's like the left side, that's where all the information comes in. And then you have a heart *kardia* in the Greek *kardia*. We get the English word, cardiology. And this is where all the information is stored. So we get knowledge in the mind and it's called *gnosis*. But if we cycle it by faith into the heart then the Greek Bible calls it *epignosis* or *epi* being full, full knowledge. Full knowledge is wisdom. **The objective of Bible study is to acquire wisdom.** Knowledge produces wisdom and wisdom makes an impact in the devil's world. So there's never any need for you to worry yourself sick since any mental attitude sin such as worry, anxiety, those sort of things eventually overflow into the body. I mean it's not uncommon for people to have skin rashes and hypertension, high blood pressure, ulcers, other disorders from the overflow or pressure from the mind to the body. This is a promise - you don't have to have that sort of stuff. You can live with an unbelievable peace the world does not have. That's a divine promise from God. And we must understand that promise and utilize that promise because it will guard you. Because Satan, if he's going to attack something, he attacks the way you think. You live your spiritual life in your brain, you know, in your soul. That's where you live it. It plays itself out in your actions. **Satan attacks your thinking.** Let me just take one brief minute, okay, maybe more than a minute. But let me show you how he can neutralize you. If you allow Satan he can neutralize you as a believer to where you have no impact, no impact in your community, no impact in your family, no impact at all. And this is how he'll do it. **Number one Satan can neutralize you by recapturing your thoughts, you'll take your mind off of Christ and put your mind on people and circumstances.** In the Bible, Paul warns about this in 2 Corinthians 11:3, "*I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve [or neutralized her, he compromised her] as the serpent deceived Eve by means of his craftiness, so your minds [there it is] so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that's in Christ Jesus.*" The single-mindedness that's in Christ Jesus. This is what Satan tries to do, to corrupt your thoughts, to corrupt your thinking, to create doubt, to create animosity, to create hatred, to create implacability, to create guilt. These are all things that attack your mind. This is not the way God intended for you to live. God said in 2 Corinthians 10:5 through Paul, "*Cast down all imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and then bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*" **Every thought, every motive, every attention, every desire into obedience to the intentions of Jesus Christ, that's what He wants you to do with your life.** But Satan is always there, always trying to neutralize you by recapturing your thoughts and then he will seek to reclaim your affections. And by that he will take you away from the things that are the most important. If you let him recapture your thoughts, you'll lose your affections. What do I mean by that? Well, 1 John 2:15 tells you, warns you, "*Do not love the world, do not love the things in the world. If any man loves the world [the cosmos diabolicus we call it] then the love of the Father is not in him.*" **Losing your affection is you turning away from loving God and associating with the details in life and looking to people or circumstances to make you happy.** And so some people fall in love with money.

Some people fall in love with drugs. Some people fall in love with alcohol. Some people fall in love with another person and they put God aside. Don't you think for one minute Satan can't bring you the love of your life if you will in fact walk away from the plan of God. I've seen it happen. I've seen several people that were advancing spiritually and were growing and they fell in love. And that was the end of that. Quit going to church, quit taking in God's Word, quit dealing with the Scriptures and began to deal with the person they fell in love with. And there's nothing wrong with falling in love. God has the right person for you. But if it's the right person they are going to assist you in your spiritual growth not distract you. Another thing Satan will try to do is redirect your focus to get you to look away from God's Word, away from the cross. In 2 Corinthians 4:18 we are warned, "*While we look not at the things which are seen [this is your focus] but we look at the things which are seen not. For the things which are seen are just temporary but the things which are seen not are the eternal things.*" **So that's our objective - keep our mind on the plan. We look forward, not back, not to what's going to make me happy today. We look forward to the objective, those things that are eternal.** So if you stay filled with the Holy Spirit, if you grow spiritually and become a mature believer you are building up eventual rewards in eternity where you will hear your Father say, 'Well done, good job, proud of you, My good and My faithful servant.' Unfortunately, some people are going to get there and the Lord will say, 'Have a seat and we'll get to you in a few years.' That doesn't mean He doesn't love you. That doesn't mean you're not in heaven. That doesn't mean you don't have eternal life. It just means you didn't fulfill His plan. And so He's busy over there blessing those other people that did while you wait your turn to get up there to hear what went on in your life. Now no sins are going to be shown you. There's no movie projector in heaven showing you all the sins you did. That's not true. Your sins were all paid for at the cross. But what will be evaluated is your production and this is described in 1 Corinthians 3:11-16. Did you manufacture wood, hay and stubble or did you manufacture gold, silver and precious stones? You're to keep your focus on this, keep your focus on Christ. Not looking at the things that are seen but the things that are seen not. Not only will Satan try to redirect your focus, he will refine or, excuse me, try to redefine your values. To get you to redefine what's valuable to you. So if I ask you a question, what's the most valuable thing in your life right now? Here's what Matthew says, Matthew 6:19, "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*" There you go. So your values must be in heaven. If you're going to lay up some rewards, it must be in heaven. **And then Satan's going to seek to get you to reorder your priorities; to put other things in front of God.** Matthew 6:33 says, "*If you will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness [that's first, priority number one] and all of these things [talked about in the preceding verses] they will be added to you.*" That's logistical support. So God has a plan for your life and that's how Satan will try to interrupt it in those ways. If you didn't get all that, write to me, I'll send you this message and you can listen to it again. Now another asset that you have as a believer in Jesus Christ, you

are now a member of the royal priesthood. You yourself are. First Peter 2:9, *“But you also are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of the darkness and into His marvelous light.”* So now you're a priest. **You're a believer priest, and as a believer priest you are guaranteed divine protection in the devil's world.** We're given that in 1 John 4:4, *“You are of God, little children, and you have overcome them, because greater is the One in you than the one that's in the world.”* So you're a believer priest, you have divine protection. Job 5:19 says you don't even have to worry about when you die. Eliphaz, the friend of Job, taught him a Bible class because he thought Job was being disciplined by God for what he did wrong and it wasn't true. This is what Eliphaz said, *“He will deliver you in six troubles, yes, even in seven no evil will touch you. In famine He will redeem you from death and war from the power of the sword. You will be hid from the scourge of the tongue, and neither shall you be afraid of destruction when it comes. At destruction and famine you can laugh and neither should you be afraid of the beast of the earth. For you shall be in league with the stones of the field and the beasts of the field should be at peace with you. And you will know that your tabernacles shall be at peace and you will visit your habitation and shall not sin. And thou shalt know also that your seed shall be great in thine offspring as the grass of the earth. And you will come to your grave in a full age like as a shock of corn cometh in the season. We've searched it, this is true, hear it, it's good.”* Recently I did a funeral for a wonderful person up in the Tennessee area. A mature believer, a wonderful mature believer, impactful in her community and in her family. You cannot believe what her life did. The historical impact that she left behind, the invisible impact she had in her community, the family impact, the blessing by association. And God took her at the right time. Now someone might have said she should have lived longer. **God takes us at the right time. Only He knows the time and the manner and the place of our departure.** And if we're mature believers, if we're growing in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we're redeeming our time, we don't even have to worry about it. He'll handle it. He knows the time, He knows the place and He knows how it'll happen. So in our case, just keep driving on. Keep your eyes on the objective. Okay? Another great asset we have, I'm talking about a phenomenal asset, is the power of intercessory prayer. Intercessory prayer. A client nation like America, we have no hope without intercessory prayer by believers, by you, for those that are in control, for the president, for the Congress, for the executive and judicial branch of the government - they need prayer. The military needs prayer. Prayer, intercessory prayer. This is all taught in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 where Paul said, *“First of all, I urge that entreaties and prayers and petitions and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all men and for kings and all who have authority [why? why should they do that? listen to the rest of the verse] so that [this is a purpose clause] we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”* We have the ability to approach the throne of God and pray for government, pray for our leaders. Paul was requesting prayers be made for the salvation of the people and for the government. Sometimes I'll look up commentaries, information other people have written. Walvoord and Zuck wrote in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* about this, they

said, "Having recently been released from his Roman imprisonment Paul was greatly aware of the deteriorating political atmosphere and thus he urged prayer for the salvation of all men but especially rulers so that the stable non-interfering environment of the previous days might be recovered." Non-interfering where the government doesn't stick its nose into the middle of religion and try to dictate policy such as they've done today. I mean, it's a crime today to display the Ten Commandments in the courthouse. Can you believe we are that far gone? It's ridiculous. A friend of mine, a wonderful friend of mine who is a pastor said this, "In America, everything good today has become evil and everything evil has now become good." That's true if you take a look at our country, if you take a look at history, if you take a look at what's going on the very things that were detestable twenty or thirty years ago are accepted and widely promoted today. And if you stand against it, well they've got a lot of names to call you. So if there's one thing that we do not have in American politics, it's tranquility. We don't have quiet lives. We are assaulted every day by media bullies that seek to impose their agenda on the masses, trying to tell the masses who's right and who's wrong and what you should believe and what you shouldn't believe. I think we need to go back to news twice a day; thirty minutes in the morning, thirty minutes in the evening and kick the rest of them off the air. Then we would be a little better off I believe. Paul said, entreaties and prayers and intercession and thanksgiving, supplication, entreaties, requests, requesting prayers. Prayers, *proseuchomai* is the word for prayer. There are prayers of appreciation, prayers of adoration of God. You can do that. There's nothing wrong with thanking God for who He is and what He is. Prayers of intercession where the Greek word *enteuxis* means we petition God on behalf of another person. **Prayers of thanksgiving, like eucharistia, the Greek word where we express our attitude of appreciation for all that God has done.** Yes, we have incredible, phenomenal assets as believers in Jesus Christ. But if you don't know them, you're not going to use them. And if you don't use them, you're never going to glorify God in time and you're never going to re-present Jesus Christ to your generation. It's not going to happen. You know, there's protocol involved in the plan of God, which means a right thing has to be done in a right way. Therefore it's critically important that we learn His Word and we learn to do it right. You know, just like a coach, you may have some guy come out for the team (basketball, football, baseball) and he's phenomenal or she's phenomenal. Have all the attributes of greatness and stability but not a team player. Well a coach can't put that person in the game because they won't learn the plays, they won't run the plays, they just want to be a ball hog or ball shot, they will shoot the ball every time they get it and the coach is going to put them on the bench. And this is the way God works. We are a team and we all have to learn our position on the team and there's no hotshots here. **We don't make the rules up as we go along, we play by God's rules and those rules are called protocol, and protocol demands that right things be done in a right way.** And that starts with salvation - faith alone in Christ alone; and it moves into the spiritual life where we are mandated to be filled with the Spirit and we're mandated to grow in grace; and it moves into how we identify with other people - where the Bible says be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving, on down the line; and then into eternity. We're to

keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ and focus on what's coming not what we're involved in now but what we will see. There's a protocol plan of God. It's not just go to church and sing a few songs and clap, clap, clap, go home - it's much more than that. **There is an angelic conflict going on and you're in the middle of it. This is a war. You must learn God's plan for your life. You must come to understand what God expects out of you and how God has equipped you and then you can live in the middle of this conflict the most fantastic, happy, peaceful, relaxed life the world has ever seen.** Everybody else around you will be falling apart and you'll be having a great time because you know Who's in control and you know how to let Him run the show. I hope you're listening. I hope you're learning. I hope you're paying attention. I am Rick Hughes the host of the FLOT Line. I'll see you next week, same time, same place. Thank you.

Our Unique Life – Part 5

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 620 aired on July 16, 2017

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I invite you to listen up. It's going to be a time of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education, done with absolutely no manipulation. No gimmicks, no games, no requesting money. We're only here for one reason, that's to give you accurate information. And that information I pray will help you verify as well as identify the plan of God for your life. And if you wish to orient and adjust to the plan, then you have the freedom and the liberty to do so. But my job is to be accurate, not to give you some human speculation, but to give you Biblical revelation and to be accurate from the Bible, the canon of Scripture. That's right this is a show about the Bible so don't turn it off yet. It's not like anything you've heard before I promise you. No jumping up and down, no yelling, no screaming, just some logical presentation of the Word of God. If you're new to the show, FLOT stands for Forward Line Of Troops. And what we're using here is a military analogy of how a believer in Jesus Christ can establish a main line of resistance in his life using a forward line of troops. And that F.L.O.T. stands for Forward Line Of Troops and that is made up of ten unique problem-solving devices. When you learn these and use these, then you will be able to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's why we always say adversity is inevitable and yet stress is optional. Because adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress, well that's what you do to yourself. So learn these ten problem-solving devices. We have a book about it. It's free if you want it, I'll send it right to you. No charge. **It lists rebound as problem-solving device number one. It lists the filling of the Holy Spirit as problem-solving device number two. It lists the faith rest drill as problem-solving device number three. And it lists Biblical orientation, grace orientation, a personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, impersonal love for others, +H or sharing the happiness of God and occupation with Jesus Christ. Those are your ten unique problem-solving devices.** Somebody says prayer is not in there. Well, prayer is not designed to solve your problems. Prayer is instantaneous communication with the Father, but as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:8 I prayed three times for my problem to be removed and it was not removed and that's when God told him that My grace is sufficient. Grace orientation is a problem-solving device. Four weeks ago I started a special study on the uniqueness of the Christian life. And since that time I've been to Texas and spoken in Texas, presented this study, added some notes, so I'm going to review a little bit before we press on to where we left off last time. I have already taught you our unique assets as believers in Jesus Christ. What God the Father has given to us and what He's provided for us, our unique assets. One of the most unique things the world has ever known, ever seen, ever heard of, I mean shock and awe, **is called the mystery doctrine of the church, it is Christ living in you.** No one ever heard of that before. Christ living in you. In the Old Testament, in the tabernacle, the Shekinah Glory indwelt the tabernacle but it never indwelt any individual. But now, according to the Bible in Colossians 1:27, *"To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among*

the Gentiles, which is Christ in you.” So the Gentiles were brought into the royal family of God to begin the unique dispensation called the Church Age. Christ living in you. The Holy of Holies of the tabernacle has now taken up residence in you. And so Paul tells us in Romans 13:14 to *“put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh.”* When I say put on the Lord Jesus Christ, what I'm saying is that **as a believer in Christ, a Christian, you need to have a different identity and a different personality profile.** A different identity and a different personality profile. You were an unbeliever, you're now a believer. Now you have to assume the profile of Jesus Christ which is humility. *“He humbled Himself,”* the Bible says in Philippians 2:5, *“and made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a man and was obedient all the way to the cross.”* So we take on His mentality. We take on His personality. He lives in us. And then guess what happens? Ephesians 3:20, *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think”* not only in eternity but in time as well because we have divine operating assets. That's what makes us stand apart from the unbelievers in the devil's world. I call them the disadvantaged ones. They don't have the advantages that we have. But the sad thing is, I think it's very possible that a lot of believers never really tap into their unique assets. We're under orders, we're under orders from God, we must present ourselves for His service. Romans 6:13, *“Do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness but [here's the mandate] present yourself to God as those alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”* Present yourself to God is the Greek word *paristemi* and it's an imperative mood in the Greek New Testament that says when you don't do this you are sinning. If you disobey the commander's orders you are sinning. **Presenting yourself to God means** that you take your flesh, your sin nature, remember the Bible says *“The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh, they're contrary one to the other,”* so you put your flesh aside, **you deny self, you say no to self and you begin to grow in God's grace plan.** Learning the protocol plan of God, utilizing the grace provisions that God has for you because your body is now the temple of God. There is no longer a tabernacle. You are the tabernacle. 1 Corinthians 3:16, *“Know you not that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? [and goes on to say] if any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy for the temple of God is holy and so should you be.”* Divine discipline is real for the believer in Jesus Christ. When we reject the plan of God, we go through warning discipline (Hebrews 12:6), we go through intense discipline (that's when God takes us out behind the woodshed), and we can also go through dying discipline. So you cannot afford to turn your back on the Word of God or to defile your body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. How do you do that? By getting sin in your life and not confessing the sin, letting the sin hibernate, letting the sin saturate your life. It could be any sin. But you defile the temple of God. **If that sin nature controls your body, then you're going to scar your body up.** And if you do enough sin, enough times, the damage is inconceivable. Because Ephesians 4:19 says, *“Those being passed feelings [that means they're calloused and they're insensitive, they're apathetic, they have no conviction, they've destroyed all of their norms and standards] those that are passed*

feelings have betrayed their own self to lasciviousness and produce uncleanness with greed.” This is a pattern in the latter days of the church, the Bible says. In 1 Timothy 4:1, *“Now the Spirit expressly says in the latter times some will depart from the faith [in other words they walk away from the Word of God] and they will listen to deceiving spirits [doctrine of demons] and they will be having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”* Conscience seared with a hot iron. What does that mean? That's the Greek word, seared is the Greek word *kauteriazō*, and we get an English word from that, cauterize, and this means, you know, to cauterize something, to burn it so it doesn't keep bleeding, you cauterize a bleeder. Those who spread false doctrine, those who walk away from the faith are branded in their mentality like a cow is branded with a branding iron. That cauterizing of their soul, no conviction, no consciousness, all norms and standards destroyed. So you must not let that happen to you. You can't afford to dabble in sin and fail to use problem-solving device number one which is rebound. It's a volitional decision you must make. You have to make this decision. Ephesians 4:22 says, *“You must put off that old manner of life, those old habits and those old actions which are corrupt, that lead to deceitful lust and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”* In other words, **learn to think differently, acquire divine viewpoint, take on the mentality of Jesus Christ.** So what are the mechanics? Again, use your volition to advance spiritually, change the way you think, start thinking some divine viewpoint (learn God's Word), change the way you live (grace orientation, God graced you out, you grace other people out), change your goals (you have a new sense of destiny, a new identity, you are a believer in Jesus Christ) and all of this is done by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit. So we have incredible assets. We have the Bible, we have different spiritual gifts. We have a well-qualified pastor teacher who's designed to teach us God's Word. We have all of these things available to us if we take advantage of them. And here's the thing that God's going to do with you. He's going to inspect your heart. Revelation 2:23, *“I am the One who searches the minds and hearts and I will give to each of you according to your production.”* So we have amazing promises here. I want you to hear this one promise. This is the most amazing promise of all. *“I will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusts in Thee.”* ***“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusts in Thee.”*** **This is an amazing lifestyle.** There's a possibility that you can live a life free of anxiety, free of stress, free of fear, free of worry. That you can have perfect peace. Psalm 119:165, *“Those who love Your Law have great peace and nothing causes them to stumble.”* That's to be discouraged or to be defeated. And this is not the peace that comes from getting saved. I mean, Billy Graham wrote a little article called “Peace with God,” and that's what happens when you get saved for sure. *“Having been justified by faith we have peace with God,”* Romans 5:1-2, *“through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* That's salvation peace. But what I'm talking about is a peace after you're saved, a peace as you live your Christian life. A way to live with a relaxed mental attitude. It's incredible. It's a life free of worry, a life free of anxiety, a life free of fear. That's why Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6-7, *“Be anxious for nothing...”* Listen, capacity for life, the capacity to live your life, is related to you being content with what God gives you. And the instructions from the Word

of God are designed to develop integrity in your life. And this is the attitude of stability and it's the capacity for really true happiness - having this integrity. Arrogance will destroy any chance of integrity. No integrity, no contentment. So the details of life, those things that are out there, that's not the source of true happiness. I mean, I enjoy having fun, doing certain things, I love to fish, bass fishing is a hobby for me, but it's not the source of true happiness. Even Paul said it this way and in Philippians 4:11, "*Not that I speak in respect of want for I've learned to be content in whatever circumstances I have.*" This is a question I have to ask you, are you content today or do you think that something else could make you happy? Look at your life. Look at your circumstances. Are you content? Now I'm not talking about your spiritual life. I hope you're not content with where you are spiritually. But physically the assets you have, you know, the details of life, are you content or do you think if you could win the lottery or do you think if you could just meet the right person or do you think if I just lived in a different place that I could get a different job then I could be happy? See, unhappy people are going to take their unhappiness with them wherever they go. So to have tranquility of soul, to have stability of mental attitude, it's an amazing thing, not letting your emotions control you, and living under this peace that God supplies you. This kind of true contentment, that's peace. That's the peace of happiness. And it is possible through the power of God to come to the place in our lives where we have this happiness. It's called +H, it's problem-solving device number nine. This tranquility and this contentment and at the same time to have a fantastic love and appreciation for our Father. Now, last time I was talking to you about this. I also want to let you know that **there is great comfort and relief in prayer.** Listen to the verse I'm fixing to read to you. Philippians 4:6-7, as I started it, "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer [by prayer] and supplication [prayer] with thanksgiving [prayer] let your requests be made known to God. [prayer, prayer, prayer, prayer, and what does it say after that?] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" There's comfort and relief in prayer. When you express your helplessness, when you express your dependence on God, that's you recognizing and orienting to His grace provisions. And thus we can relax, we can enjoy the peace of God with a relaxed mental attitude because Satan is going to attack your thinking. That's where he works. He's attacking your mind. That's where you live your spiritual life - in your mind and your soul. You're not what you look like, you're what you think. **The Bible says, "As a man thinks in his heart so he is." The real you is what you think.** And this is where the battle goes on. It's the battle for your thoughts. So you live your Christian life in the mentality of your soul and that's where he will focus his attack. He wants you to doubt, he wants you to be deceived, he wants you to be discouraged. These are all weapons that Satan uses. And the Bible says if you'll make those requests known to God, the peace of God which passes understanding will guard, the future active indicative of *phroureo*, it will guard you. It will protect you. It will protect your mind and your heart. Your mind, your *nous* (n.o.u.s.), that's the Greek word mind and your heart *kardia* (k.a.r.d.i.a.), they're two different compartments in the soul. The mind is where you assimilate information and the heart is where you apply the

information. So one is intake and one is outtake. One is take it in and one is put it out. So you take it in with the mind and use it in the heart. When you use it in the heart it's called wisdom in the Bible. It's an amazing thing. And so there's never any need for you to worry yourself sick. Never a need for any of this sort of stuff because the peace of God will guard you. Amazing. Amazing. I told you last time that Satan will try to neutralize you by recapturing your thoughts. He will try to get your thought life. He will try to get the way you think. And this is why Paul wrote it this way, he said, "*Cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bring into captivity [listen now] every thought to the obedience of Christ.*" Casting down imaginations and every high thing. High thing, *hupsoma*, it's a Greek word meaning barrier or antagonism. Paul describes his mental attitude to us, it's him talking about his self there. He speaks of the way he handled things, his resources. That's what that is. And he said we destroy human speculations. That's casting down imaginations. Let me give you a little modified expanded translation of 2 Corinthians 10:5, "*We destroy human speculations that are antagonistic to God as well as every barrier in our soul that stands against the knowledge of God and by doing this we capture every thought and bring them into obedience.*" Now remember, Satan is going to play mind games with you. The victory in your life begins with what you think. So he will try to change the way you think. Recapture your thoughts. He will try to reclaim your affections, that's why the Bible says, "*love not the world.*" And he will seek to redirect your focus, that's why the Bible says, "*don't look at things that are seen but things that are unseen.*" And he will seek to redefine your values and that's why the Bible says, "*don't lay up for yourselves treasures on this earth but seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.*" So you as a believer you have all these assets. **You're a royal priest, you're a member of the royal family of God, you have the power of intercessory prayer, you have the filling of the Holy Spirit.** All of these things so that you can have a tranquil and a quiet life. The Bible clearly says this. Paul encourages prayer on behalf of 1 Timothy 2:1-2, he says to Timothy, "*I urge that entreaties, prayers, petitions and thanksgiving be made known on behalf of all men [and look at verse two] for kings and all who are in authority [like the president] so that we may live a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and all dignity.*" In other words, what Paul is saying is he wants Timothy to pray for the government so they will be undisturbed by government authorities and they can have a tranquil calm life and learn and serve and worship God, not have a stormy life. And Paul knew the deteriorating political atmosphere of Rome. He knew what was going on and essentially in 64 A.D. Rome burned down and Nero accused Christians of doing it and I mean he persecuted them unmercifully. So if there's one thing we don't have in America today, it's tranquility or quiet lives because we are assaulted every day by media bullies seeking to impose their agenda on the masses. The only way to debate that or defeat that is through prayer. Now, let's talk about your unique times that you live in, okay? The most unique thing is we live in the Church Age and when we became believers in Jesus Christ, we are automatically adopted into the family of God, made heir with God and Christ. We're heirs to the family of God. Listen, Galatians 3:26, "*For you are all the sons of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Having*

predestined us to the adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.” That means, here's what it means, you and I, we are spiritual aristocracy. That's the highest class in society. We are spiritual nobility. We might not be presidential. We might not be kings. But we are nobility in Christ and this is superior to any other dispensation in the history of the church, even from the beginning of time until the end of time. No one has the spiritual nobility of the royal family of God except the church members. You, me, **we are members of the body of Christ, adopted into the family of God. We have a new purpose, a new responsibility, a new source of authority and we have a life that is planned specifically for us** and us alone. So, as we learn that purpose, we learn our unique assets, we use our assets and we know that we are now (you, me) we are now the personal representatives of Jesus Christ during our time here in the arena of contention called earth. We are ambassadors from heaven. The Bible says we're royal ambassadors. That means we've been left here for a purpose and for a certain time. And so if we're going to do that, we've got to have a certain mindset. That mindset requires us to have humility and to commit ourselves to the life that God has for us. Paul said it this way, he said, *"I've been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, and yet it's not me, but it's Christ living in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."* What Paul is saying is, he put to death the flesh. He's not living for the flesh anymore and he's not living by sight anymore. **The only way to live is to live by faith and you must trust God.** In other words, Christ died for you experientially, thus you die for Him in your position. You say, 'No, I'm not going to obey the lust of the flesh. Yes, I'm going to let the Holy Spirit control my life. Yes, I'm going to take God's Word and learn and use it. Yes, I'm going to change the way I think. Yes, I'm going to change my personality. Yes, I'm going to represent Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.' I mean, the Son obeyed the Father and you have to as well. You have to obey the Son. Jesus said to the disciples, *"If anybody wants to come after Me, let him deny himself."* That means put your life aside. You're going to have to live for Me. And this act of sacrifice is simply you denying what you may have the right to do in order to serve Him. In other words, your existence, your life must forever be a channel for the flow of the gospel demonstrated by virtue love to all that you meet. Whether it's impersonal love for the lost man, whether it's personal love for the believer, having personal love for God the Father. Because Paul said, *"For me, to live is Christ,"* Philippians 1:21. That must be you. For you, to live is Christ. **That's why you're here - to re-present Him.** Not only represent Him by means of your local church but to re-present Him in your personal life. That's why Paul said, anything that I had in the past I count that all as dung. I have a new life, a new mission, a new purpose. All that other stuff is just rubbish. If He is my Lord, I have a new ownership. I'm His servant now, Paul said. He called himself a slave of Jesus Christ and we are also. Think about it. Your destiny, your history depends on your attitude about this. I hope you're learning. I hope you're putting this together. It's an awesome time to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for listening. Until next week, same time, same place. Thank you for being with us.

Our Unique Life – Part 6

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 621 aired on July 23, 2017

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to invite you to stay tuned. It's going to be about thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education always done without any type of manipulation which means we don't try to con people, we're not trying to hustle you for any money, we're not going to ask you to join anything. We're simply trying to give you accurate information. Information that I pray will help you verify as well as identify God's plan for your life and if I can do that and you can do that, then you can orient and adjust to the plan if you want to, that's up to you. You have your own life, you live your own decision-making process. God gave you a soul. And inside that soul you have something called volition and that means that you are not an automaton, you can choose. You can choose to make any decision you want to make. I do know that bad decisions limit future options and if we make enough bad decisions, we don't have much options left. But as you go through life you make choices every day. The most important choice you could ever make, the single most significant decision you could ever make in your life is to do what the Bible says, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."* Why is that essential? Because you don't live here forever. You're lucky if you make it 50, 60, 70 years through here. But hey, there's something on the other side of this veil. It's called eternal life and your soul is never going to die. Your body, yep, you're going to die physically. Your body's going to go back to dust but your soul and hopefully your spirit, if you're born again and have an active human spirit, it's going to live in the presence of the Father in a resurrection body - a new body. That's why this is so important. It's not just about living here now, although that's normally what we focus on, the things that are seen, but the Bible tells us to focus on the things that are unseen. So that's what this study has been about. I've been in a study for five different Sundays now with you and it's about the unique Christian life. How unique is this life? I recently taught this study at a church in Houston, Texas and it is available on a DVD series. If you'd like to watch it all you have to do is contact us and we'll send it to you free of charge if you'd like to watch it. But this unique Christian life is awesome. We, first of all, have many unique assets that we taught you. We went over that. And we live in a most unique time. That's what we're talking about now. The unique period that we live in is called the church. We live in the Church Age. And in this unique time that we live in called the church, this most unique time in the history of the world, it was also hidden because no one really knew about it. It was called a mystery doctrine in the Bible. It wasn't revealed. These unique times, the church, means that we are adopted. You and I, we're adopted into God's royal family and we are now a new spiritual aristocracy. That means you and me, we are nobility - spiritual nobility. Why? **Because God's Holy Spirit lives within us and we are now ambassadors or personal representatives of Jesus Christ while we are still here.** And I told you last week, we have to assume His mindset, the Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* And we also assume His personality profile where the Bible says, *"He humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation and took upon Himself the form*

of a slave.” Paul admitted that he was a slave to Jesus Christ. He said that personally in the Bible. He said in Romans 1:1, “*Paul, a slave of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God.*” Yes, when Christ freed us from the slave market of sin, and that's what's so unique about the cross, He purchased our freedom. **He freed us from the slave market of sin. He bought us, He paid for us with His own life which was the redeeming ransom that God required. So we have been set free in Christ.** “*If any man's in Christ,*” the Bible says, “*he's a new creation. Old things are passed away and all things become new.*” But even though we're free, even though we've been set free, we can come back and voluntarily surrender to the ownership of Jesus Christ and serve Him if we want to do that. In Galatians 5:1 the Bible says, “*it is for freedom that Christ set you free. So keep standing fast and don't become entangled again in the yoke of slavery.*” The yoke of slavery is what the cosmic system offers you. In the cosmos diabolicus, Satan's world that's what it is, there's slavery. Slavery to the details of life. There's slavery to the lust patterns of life. And people get enslaved to alcoholism, get enslaved to sexual addictions, they get enslaved to financial addiction - slavery. Slavery to the details of life. What the world offers is a big lie. That if you have money, if you have success, if you have a beautiful spouse, a beautiful home, beautiful children, you'll be happy. That's a lie. I mean, they're all things that will make you happy for sure but that's not the source of happiness. Christ said, “*Happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and keep it*” in Luke 11:28. And He said, “*I'm going to leave My joy for you,*” to the disciples. There is a way to be happy and the most wonderful way to be happy is not to be enslaved to the lust patterns of life and not to be enslaved to the cosmic system of life, not to be fueled by satanic temptations that appeal to your particular area of weakness. So negative volition, not positive volition, negative volition results in people being enslaved to circumstances in life. As a Christian you can be a slave to the details in life. And so circumstances and people are not the key to happiness. If you think like that, under that sort of thinking, then any prosperity you might have is going to lead to some self-righteous arrogance. And any adversity you may have it's going to lead to some self-pity, feeling sorry for self. **Emotions can enslave you if you're not careful, enslave you to the details of life.** So we don't really live our life for the recognition or for praise. **The objective of the Christian life is you being willing to serve your Lord and your Master, Jesus Christ the anointed Son of God.** Only His will, desiring to give Him all the recognition and all the praise, not you. When we do a funeral sometimes people want to remember the loved one, and that's fine. But funerals are about the faithfulness of Jesus Christ not the faithfulness of the person who passed away. So we're not there to eulogize that person, we're there to glorify Jesus Christ and His faithfulness and what He said in His Word. I mean, I've seen wonderful pastors, men of God that were such slaves to the will of God that they gave all of their time to study and teach the Bible. They sacrificed a lot of things they could have done, a lot of travels they could have done so they could teach God's Word. It's not easy to teach God's Word. When I'm filling in for certain pastors (sometimes they may ask me to come and fill in for a while) if I'm going to teach like four hours in the local church it may require me to study 400 hours. I mean, you just don't get up

there and ad lib it. You must know what you're talking about. That's why the Bible says you, *“study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, but rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* I can think of nothing worse than to stand in the pulpit and misrepresent God because I didn't study, because I took something that I didn't understand and tried to talk about it. Therefore, it's imperative that any pastor willingly forfeit his freedom in life to serve his Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. If he's going to shepherd his flock, he's been called by God to be an overseer and that means there are a lot of things that he might like to do but he's not going to have time to do them if he gives attention to the details of studying and teaching God's Word. For example, you know some churches may have a January Bible study and sometimes they go through say the book of Romans in maybe a week or maybe ten days but you can't do that. If you study the book of Romans, line upon line, word upon word, verse upon verse, you might be in the book of Romans for two or three years. You can't hustle all the stuff out of there in a week or two. And so all of us are slaves, slaves to Jesus Christ. **Our objective is to use our spiritual gift to serve Him and to serve His desire.** You have a spiritual gift. You have a spiritual gift that God gave you. And that gift, whatever that gift is, whether it's the gift of giving, the gift of administration, the gift of helps, the gift of mercy. Maybe it's a communication gift like the gift of pastor-teacher. Maybe I'm talking to someone that should be a pastor-teacher. Maybe it's the gift of evangelism. Whatever that gift is, your objective is to use that gift in His service to glorify Him. For example, don't get confused, don't get mixed up, evangelists don't need to play pastors and pastors don't need to play evangelists and pastors don't need to play missionaries. We have to have a single mindset of feeding and protecting the flock of God, not running all over the country. You know, that's what happens to a lot of pastors, they run all over the country wanting to do everything and they forget their own flock. So we live in some pretty unique times that demand a fairly unique lifestyle which is in the Bible. It's a code. There is a code in the Bible for us to follow while we are still here in this time continuum. The code that I'm about to teach you is called the royal family honor code. The royal family honor code. If you've never heard that before, it's a study you really need to understand. And I don't know that I'm going to be able to do it all now but if you'd like to know more about it, just contact me. I'll tell you where you can get a complete study on the royal family honor code. But what it is, is a system of spiritual integrity mandated by God and revealed in the New Testament, in the Church Age. So in order for us to function as aristocracy, which is what we are, spiritual aristocracy, we must have an aristocratic lifestyle. A lifestyle of class and the mindset of virtue. And aristocracy has standards. We must have standards, you must have standards. **Standards that believers are called to live by are found in the royal family honor code.** In this code we have the lifestyle of aristocracy. You know, in America today is almost like we've become a nation of peasants in the way we think. My pastor once said that. Aristocratic thinking seems to have disappeared. And as a nation we kind of think stupidly sometimes, if we think at all. If you want to find out what a man's thinking let him talk because words are an extension of what he thinks. So if he has a vocabulary of about twenty words then you know he doesn't think very much. Your vocabulary is

indicative of what's in your soul or what you think. And, you know, we get addicted to these handheld entertainment devices. We've eliminated much thought. And people seldom read anymore and so they're entertained by the cell phone or the tablet device and this dumbs down American children. I mean American children spend hours glued to video games. If you've got grandchildren, like I do, you know what I'm talking about. They no longer think for themselves and they lose a skill set they should have learned growing up called problem solving ability. God has given us a new way to think and a new way of living to function in a unique period of history called the Church Age. And that new way of thinking is the mentality of aristocracy found in Romans chapter thirteen. Take your Bible and read through it, I don't have time to go through it right now, all of it. Maybe I should teach a series on the royal family honor code but I will leave that to the well-qualified pastors that can do it much better than me. And as I said, if you want to know about it, contact me and I'll tell you where you can listen to a pastor teach it. **In this particular honor code we are mandated to live by recognizing first of all, the privacy of the priesthood, that every believer has privacy. No one has the right to stick their nose into someone else's business.** Matthew 7 says, *"don't judge lest you be judged because with the measure you measure it will be measured to you again."* And I remember learning about the proboscis monkey many years ago. He's a monkey that has a nose about two feet long - a weird looking thing. And some Christians are like that. They have a nose about two feet long and they want to stick it in everybody's business. That is a sin. God says stay out of other people's business. **Don't judge people, don't malign people, don't criticize people.** You let God do the judging. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open twenty-four hours a day and if there's a problem He can handle it. He doesn't need your help. This is where a lot of people don't live by the honor code. They invade the privacy of other people. Even asking silly questions like, 'Where were you last Sunday brother? We missed you.' It's none of your business where they were last Sunday. So keep your nose out of their business. Give people privacy. And you should have the understanding that spiritual advance, growing spiritually, moving from being a spiritual baby to a spiritual adolescent to a spiritually mature individual, that comes from learning God's Word not from doing something. Doing something is not growing. We need more learning and less doing. And a lot of folks would be a lot better off because they get all wrapped up in the doing and not the learning and here's what happens, they do the right thing but they do it in the wrong way and it winds up glorifying self and it's not divine good production and it's going to wind up being wood, hay and stubble at the Judgment Seat of Christ. So an honor code like that, for an aristocratic lifestyle like we must live, demands that we think and we grow. Not that we hustle around, hustle people and do things. **That honor code demands you have extremely good manners and extreme thoughtfulness to other people.** It's only lived under the virtue love concept which is problem-solving device number eight, loving others. You know, *"we love God because He first loved us."* He loved you with impersonal love. He loved you based on His character not your character. And when we're talking about virtue love, you using impersonal love for other people, other Christians that may be obnoxious to you and you deplore them, you

are not relaxed around them, you vibrate every time they come in your periphery, your hair stands up on end because you think to yourself, 'Oh no, here comes that nosy so-and-so again,' - you have to use impersonal love. This is a grace asset. Learning to grace people out. **Learning to treat people in grace even though they don't treat you in grace. Gracing people out. Loving them based on your character not their character.** Therefore, you stay relaxed, you are thoughtful, you show good manners. The worst thing in the honor code is to gossip or to malign or to slander other believers. We are warned about that in Ephesians 4:25. It says, *"Therefore, having laid aside the lie, each one of you speak truth with his fellow believers since we are members one of another."* There's nothing worse than lying. Lying to another believer or lying to a pastor can get you in serious trouble. Just ask Ananias and Sapphira about it when you get to heaven, when they lied to Peter about their contributions. You can read about that in the book of Acts as well. So, if you are a believer, then you are a priest - only in the Church Age. And here's something unique about our lifestyle, we don't have to confess our sins to any other people. You don't have to go to the priest to confess your sin. **You are a priest, you are a believer priest and 1 John 1:9 says you can confess your own sin. It says you can go directly to God's throne room and name your own sins.** And don't tell somebody else your sins. This whole concept about having a Christian partner, I think they call it an accountability partner that when you mess up you're suppose to go tell them what you did is wrong. Do not do that. That leads to problems, complications and it's not the way God designed it. There's nothing in the Bible about you having an accountability partner. Your accountability partner is God the Holy Spirit and He is certainly capable of convicting you when you do wrong and convincing you that you need to rebound your sin and get back in fellowship. And if you don't, then God the Father will discipline you as any father disciplines his children. But stay away from going to someone else and telling them what you did. Because, first of all, they don't need to carry that burden, they don't need to hear it. And secondly, they're probably going to tell somebody else and then there goes your privacy. So you can go to God's throne room. You can confess your own sin in private. You function under your own priesthood and that's important to remember. **You are a priest and you are an ambassador. In privacy you function under your priesthood, in the public you function under your ambassadorship.** That's how you serve God. So the honor code of Romans 13 demands that you live first of all, under establishment principles. And that's the establishment code of freedom of choice, marriage, family and nationalism. These are called the divine establishment principles. Freedom to choose, God ordained you to have the freedom to choose, that's why He gave you volition. And marriage is for all members of the human race. And the family is for the human race to raise children and teach children and inculcate Biblical standards and norms and standards to children. And nationalism, this is what God did at the Tower of Babel when He separated the nations by language and by land - separated people. And so, you know, when I go fishing I don't see brim swimming with catfish and I don't see catfish swimming with bass and I don't see bass swimming with something else. Even bass have species: striped bass, spotted bass, smallmouth bass and they all stay together. But we don't seem

to want to do that. We want to merge. That's exactly what Satan wants you to do. That way he can control you. So the honor code, we live under that establishment principle of nationalism. You are an American. This is your country and you are to pray for your leaders, pray for your country and stay out of any type of internationalism. That's the way the past administration wanted to take the direction of this country into a progressive international viewpoint. No, that's not what we do. We are Americans and we stay proud of our American heritage. You raise your family. You teach your children. You get married. The lawful honorable correct thing to do. And you have the freedom and the right to choose your destiny in life. So the honor code demands all those things. And it's much greater than morality. It's past morality. I mean an unbeliever can be moral but a Christian, the spiritual life is so much greater than morality it's hard to explain it. The honor code demands that you be patriotic, that you respect your government authorities, that you serve in the military if it's possible, that you respect law and order. And as far as a Christian relationship in government goes, just take your Bible, read Romans 13:1-7 and you'll see all of this. The honor code would condemn any mental attitude sins that motivate gossiping or judging or maligning other people. This is what distinguishes you from the unbeliever. Not simply the fact that you are more moral, that you don't fornicate, you don't lie, you don't cheat, you don't steal - I'm glad, but the honor code is much more than that. And that's what will make you magnetic and the unbeliever will see it in you. They will see that you are different because you live by a different code than they do. They live by do unto others before others do unto them. That's not the code you live by. So we are believers. We live in the Church Age. We live in the client nation of USA. And we are expected to form the basis of the pivot that holds back God's discipline on this nation. God's looking for people to stand in the gap, to make up the hedge between Him. And if you can be a part of that pivot, it means that you are part of the group of mature believers that has an impact in history, an invisible impact as it may be, but God the Father is watching and God the Father knows. You remember when Lot got in trouble in Sodom and Gomorrah and Abraham convinced Him and said, 'Will you spare the city if I could just find ten righteous people?' And the Father said, 'Sure, find Me ten and I'll spare it.' God is always searching the hearts and minds of people. How many righteous people are there in America? Are you one of them? If you are, if you're growing spiritually, if you're staying filled with the Holy Spirit, if you're learning God's Word on a daily basis then you need a medal - you're part of that pivot. You are part of the invisible group of believers that make up the pivot that helps sustain this nation and keep us away from the discipline of God. So you live a very unique lifestyle and your positive volition, your hunger for Truth, your hunger to serve God is buying time for America - for America to be evangelized and for Americans to take heed of God's Word. You are the one that must stand in the gap according to Ezekiel 22:30 where God said He was looking for somebody to stand in the gap. But He said He couldn't find anybody. Well, it's imperative that you be the person. That you are the one who's willing to stand up. That doesn't mean you become a crusader and get involved in crusader arrogance. It means that you are consistently filled with the Holy Spirit, when you sin you admit it immediately, you consistently take in God's Word

every day under a well-qualified pastor. If it's in your local church or if it's at home around your dinner table with a tape player, a DVD player, get your Bible, get a notebook and learn God's Word every day and then apply what you learn. As you do, **you will grow, you will glorify Jesus Christ, you will start replicating His life, re-presenting Him to this lost and dying generation. That is your challenge. That's what makes this Christian life so unique.** And there's a lot more to go here. I mean, I'm just scratching the surface. I'm not through with this. We're going to go for another show or so on this. I hope you're listening. I hope you're learning. And, as I said, I did a presentation at a local church in Houston on this. If you'd like to get the DVD of the series, let me know. We'll send it to you free of charge. I hope you're listening and learning. And until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Our Unique Life – Part 7

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 622 aired on July 30, 2017

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I am your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, as always, you have a standing invitation to hang in there with me. Listen up for a few minutes. It's just going to be about thirty minutes of motivation, inspiration, some education always done without manipulation. That's right, no appeal for money, not trying to sell you anything. We're just trying to give you some accurate information. Information that we hope will help you verify and identify God's plan for your life. And if you're able to do that then hopefully you will orient and adjust to that plan. It's your life. Your life is made up of your decisions. You're not going to be able to change anyone but yourself. You may as well understand that now. **You can't change anyone but yourself. You can give information and you can see what God does but you can only change yourself.** So as I present this information to you about the unique life that we live, the unique Christian life. We are going into seven different lessons on this now and we'll try to get it wrapped up here shortly. This is something that I taught in Houston recently and there is a DVD of this. If you'd like to see it, just contact me, we'll send it to you. We live in a very unique time. We have unique opportunity and that's what I want to talk to you about today, our unique opportunity as Christians living in the unique time with our unique assets. We have the unique opportunity to watch history unfold before our very eyes and maybe witness the changing of the guard. Now if we are mature believers, that means if we grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What exactly do I mean a mature believer? Well first of all, believer is the keyword; you must be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. And once you become a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you move from being a baby believer to an adolescent believer to eventually a mature believer. Hebrews 5, the writer (whoever wrote that) said I'd like to talk to you like mature believers (Hebrews 5:11-16) but I can't do it. He said you're still babies and you need milk from the bottle, you can't handle the meat. And sometimes that's true. Sometimes young believers can't handle the deeper things of God. And what I mean deeper things of God, I mean doctrines that are more complicated. So I don't know where you are spiritually but a mature believer is a believer who understands the protocol plan of God. Let's start with that. They understand rebound; they know how to confess their sin, and thus stay filled with the Holy Spirit. **They understand how the filling of the Holy Spirit produces divine good which is later rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ.** They understand how to use the faith-rest drill. They are oriented to the Word of God; they are Biblically oriented. They have grace orientation, for sure, and they've reached a personal sense of destiny where they now know what God's plan for their life is. And they are using virtue love assets; they have personal love for God, they have impersonal love for all the weirdos, the people that they don't even like. That's what a mature believer is. He shares the happiness of God and he's occupied with Jesus Christ. There are ten problem-solving devices. I just named them for you. That's the FLOT line on your soul. A mature believer has a well-developed FLOT line on his soul and he's able to glorify God through any exigency that comes into his life, any

circumstances, anything, he can glorify God. So if we do our job, then those that are around us, those who watch us, those who see our lives, they will see the fruit of our sacrifice. Let me put it to you this way. I'm going to repeat this principle for you. If a mature believer does their job, they will see the fruit of their sacrifice in the lives of their children, in the lives of their grandchildren, in the lives of their family and their friends. Sacrifice. That means they stick with the Word of God. Do you remember the recruiter asking people to join the military and you know during the Vietnam War the soldiers that came back were spit upon and cursed and slapped and hated by the protesters. By the way, those protesters today now run a lot of our major universities. So you wonder where all the liberalism comes from? But, you know, these men and women served valiantly in spite of the disdain that they faced and the hatred that they faced. As a believer in Jesus Christ, you face that same hatred, you face that same disdain from the unbelieving world. From the progressive liberal that doesn't believe in God, he's an atheist, he hates you, to the people that sue because they don't want God in any of the public agenda. Some guy, I understand, took a car and slammed into the Ten Commandments in a park because he hated it so much. Are you willing to serve God and grow to be a mature believer and sacrifice your rights for people like this? Because that's what the military does. They laid their life down - they died. In Vietnam 58,000 people died for people back home that couldn't stand them, that hated them. In Afghanistan we've had over 3,000 deaths. In Iraq over 5,000 deaths. Altogether we've had over 700,000 Americans die to purchase and preserve our freedom and the freedom for some people to hate. To hate them, hate the military, hate Christians, hate anything that has to do with patriotism or Americanism, people that want internationalism over nationalism. Are you willing to give your life to the Lord Jesus Christ to give these people opportunity to hate you even more? Because that's what you have to do. **You have to be willing to pick up your cross and follow Christ.** Did He die for people that hated Him? Did He go to the cross like a lamb without opening His mouth to people that schemed a way to get Him killed? Did He buy time for them to hear the truth and maybe get evangelized? See that's what you'll do. Your spiritual life is buying time. You are asking God to hold back the discipline on this nation that we rightly deserve so that they have an opportunity to hear the gospel, an opportunity to hear the Word of God, an opportunity to respond. You know the biggest mistake people make is rejecting the authority of their parents. A child's attitude towards authority, especially in the home, determines whether or not they're ever going to grow up. And, you know, it's a shame if you're forty years old and you're still a child in your soul. And by that I mean you're still selfish, you're still self-centered, you're still deceptive and you're still needy. In other words, you're just a social misfit. You can't handle life on your own. And we see a lot of those, a lot of people from well-to-do families that fit that right there, selfish, self-centered, deceptive and needy and a misfit in society. **The Scripture guarantees a long life, a long life and a prosperous life to those who listen to the Word of God.** If you don't believe me listen, Ephesians 6:2-3, "*Honor your father and your mother [that's orient to their authority] (which is the first mandate with a promise) so that it may be well with you and you may live a long time on this earth.*" An anti-authority attitude usually

results in earlier than normal death, I assure you. Proverbs 3:1-2, *“My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my mandates; for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.”* All believers in this church age, this unique time that we live in, we all have the same opportunity to execute the protocol plan of God. But part of the agony of regret is when we realize that we had every opportunity to learn God's Word, glorify God in time and we chose to turn our backs on that. You chose to trot on down the My Way Highway to the drum beat of the satanic lure that people or circumstances could make you happy. You had self-determination and used it on things that were inconsequential - they had no value. And physical death is the last opportunity to make a decision to receive Christ as Savior because after that, I mean it's all over. It's never too late if you're still alive. Even the thief on the cross saw that. Now our unique challenge is this, we must stay aware of the times in which we live. In 1 Peter 5:6-8 the Bible says, *“Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God so that He may promote you at the proper time. Casting all your cares on Him because He cares for you. Be vigilant, humble yourselves, be vigilant, stay on the lookout...”* Gregoreo is the Greek word. It means to stay alert and this is an imperative mood in the Greek. Imperative mood, in other words, this is a command. What this is saying is, this is kind of, you can understand this from our lives that we live today, don't text and drive. **Do not go through the Christian life not paying attention.** *“Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God so that He may promote you at the proper time. Casting all your cares on Him because He cares for you. Humble yourselves, be vigilant. [Why?] Because your enemy the devil goes about like a roaring lion seeking some believers to devour. But resist him and stand firm in the doctrine ...”* You and I must keep our eyes on the prize not on the things that are temporary but things that are eternal. The Bible tells you that in Hebrews 12:2, *“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and the perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* We must stay alert. We must stay mentally alert by means of Bible doctrine in our soul. If that happens it results in the motivation to learn and apply God's Word in our life. So being aware is the motivation to do that. **Being aware is the motivation to fulfill the dimensions of your spiritual life.** The dimensions of your spiritual life, Ephesians 3:18, *“That you may utilize the power to grasp the idea with all the saints of what is the width, what is the length, what is the height and what is the depth of this Christian life rooted and grounded in virtue love so that you can comprehend.”* Wow. Paul uses an architectural metaphor here. That we could be rooted and grounded, set firm, our foundation would be firm, we lay the foundation deep in God's Word. So we stay alert. We're not deceived. It's not necessary to have a high human IQ to understand and fulfill the plan of God for your life. I don't. I don't have a high human IQ. I mean, I'm not a genius. But it is necessary to have positive volition. That's what's necessary. Positive volition means you want to learn God's Word. You are willing to lay aside things that you may have a right to do so that you can learn God's Word. In other words, *“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these other things I'll add.”* Matthew 6 is a promise about logistical grace provisions. You must have positive volition. That's what God

is looking for - a few good men and good women, people that are hungry. And here's something interesting. It's interesting how women often times have more hunger for God's Word than the men do. And I think that's because of the burden they bear sometime with children and families. In men, like myself, we ignore things, we just go trotting down the road doing things that we do and sometimes we forget the priorities in our life, what's important. We think what's important is we provide for our families and we work hard and we bring home a paycheck and yeah, that's important. **But that's not near as important as you providing a spiritual heritage for your children.** The width and the depth and the height of God's love; the width, well that's a line in your soul. A very wide line in your soul like a FLOT line. That width needs to be miles and miles of the Word of God strung together all the way across the battlefield of your soul where you form a main line of resistance so that there's nowhere the enemy is going to be able to penetrate. There has to be that width in your life. And length, the Bible uses the word length, *mekos*, and that refers to the Word of God that circulates inside your soul, inside your frame of reference built on learning and applying the Word of God. That's what your soul is built on. Your soul has a consciousness and a self-consciousness. That self-consciousness and that consciousness has a stream and that stream is like a river and that river flows all the time. Even when you sleep, you dream; that's that river flowing. And that stream of consciousness must have Bible doctrine. The Word of God must be in there. That's the length that's referring to the doctrine that circulates in your soul and the only way you can get it is by learning God's Word. Proverbs 18:15, *"The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge and the ears of the wise seek it out."* There's positive volition. *"The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge and the ears of the wise seek it out."* The Greek word for height, *hupsos*, the width, the length, the height. The height is your impact in the devil's world. Historically and internationally you can have an impact. You can be a blessing to a non-client nation by means of missionary outreach. We do, we send missionaries all over the world. We financially provide for those all over the world, people that are in need, people that need the gospel, people that need medicine, people that need food and that's our impact in the devil's world as believers. And the word depth, the depth of the Christian life, the word *bathos*, can relate to our own invisible assets, those things that God provides for us. Romans 11:33 says, *"O the depth of the riches both the wisdom and the knowledge of God."* The depth of the wisdom of the riches and the wisdom of the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:10 says, *"When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul then discretion and understanding will preserve and keep you."* That passage right there, please turn and read it again. Proverbs 2:10, *"When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul then discretion and understanding will preserve and keep you."* Any believer who is mature enough to be aware of his circumstances, to be aware of the challenges must also be aware of the discipline that his country may expect. Thus I'm telling you we are in for discipline. The only thing that will deliver this nation from what we are facing in the future is you. If you take your spiritual life seriously, if you use your volition to acquire the Word of God under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor, if you take a Bible, if you stay filled with the Holy Spirit and you take a

Bible and you start studying it and learning it as your pastor teaches it and you grow to spiritual maturity you will be part of the pivot that delivers this nation, that buys time for future generation. But if you play church, if you play the game, if you don't grow up spiritually, if you put more time more emphasis in other things, then you are part of the problem. **You must be aware of what's happening. Listen, Satan may change his tactics towards you as you get older. You don't have the same weaknesses you had at twenty when you're sixty. He'll adjust his schemes and he will try to discourage you continually. He will try to defeat you continually. That never stops. So you are to stay alert, in other words, don't text and live the Christian life at the same time. You must pay attention to what's around you because you have a unique future.** That unique future for you is in Philippians 3:20, where it says, *“Our citizenship is in heaven and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory by means of the extension of the power that He's able to subject to all things to Himself.”* In other words, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior is alive and well today, He's in the presence of the Father awaiting the shouted order to return and when He comes back you'll come back with Him and He will give you a new body, a resurrection body. Anyone who dies today goes to heaven. Some of my dear friends have parted recently. They're in heaven, they're face-to-face with the Lord. They're not in their resurrection bodies yet, that doesn't happen until the Rapture, but they're in some sort of, they're not a cloud floating around. I don't know, I assume they're in an interim body. They will be in that body until they come back and get their resurrection body. When they get that resurrection body that's the body they will live in forever and forever and forever. It's a body like the body of Jesus Christ. The body He's in now. He's the only person in heaven in a resurrection body. I mean, there are angels there, God the Father is there, the Holy Spirit is there, and the Lord Jesus Christ is there in a resurrection body. In 1 Peter 2:11, *“I warn you as temporary residents...”* This is not your home. I know you own a house. I know you own property. I know you like to look at your things and say wow this is beautiful and I'm the same way but it's just temporary. It's not where we belong. He says, *“I warn you, as temporary residents and foreigners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very soul.”* **In other words, luring you away from the Word of God, thinking that security is in property, that security is in finances, that security is in family and friends. In John 17:16, “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world,” Jesus said.** As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, your future place, your home is called *ouranos* in the Greek New Testament, we translate the word heaven. Now listen, you will go to heaven when you die, there's no doubt about it. And you will come back with the Lord Jesus Christ to this planet and get your resurrection body when He returns at the Rapture of the church, there's no doubt about that. And you will come back with Him later at the Second Advent when He sets up His millennial reign for a thousand years. At the end of the thousand years, when the heavens and the earth are all destroyed, every bit of it's going to be burned up, you can read about it for yourself, 2 Peter 3, read the chapter. You will see where everything we know, everything, poor people on Mars, you

know folks say there are Martians up there, well they're going to be in for a surprise, it's all going to be burned up. The elements are going to be burned up. The universe is going to be burned up. The earth is going to be destroyed and God will create a new heaven and a new earth and that's our residence for eternity on the new earth with the new Jerusalem. That's where we'll be forever. Not in heaven. We're going to be on that new earth forever and ever and ever. So, we are currently ambassadors of heaven assigned to this location as personal representatives of Jesus Christ. We live here for one purpose. The only reason you and I are here, once He saved us He could have taken us straight to heaven, but He left us here to serve His interest. We will be recalled at the Rapture, which incidentally is a declaration of war, and the Tribulation will finish up with the Age of Israel (that is taught in Matthew) and it's not going to be a fun time, the Tribulation, those seven years of Daniel's prophecy, those last seven years. But while we're in heaven while the Tribulation is going on here on the earth, we will be evaluated and assigned various rewards. This is all seen in 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. And we will see *"the Day will be revealed by fire."* There's so much more that I could talk about. What will it be like? Don't forget that we have a thousand years in a resurrection body here on the earth, on this planet. Don't forget that. I mean, heaven is a perfect place, but not everybody there is going to be equal either. There will be different decorations for winner believers, the knighthood of the believer, the uniform of glory, the coat of arms, the hall of records. It's all going to be different. There will be a crown of righteousness, a crown of life, a crown of glory, the morning star, wearing that bright and beautiful uniform of the morning star. I mean there's so much there that we could teach. I just don't have time. But it's not a place like you've ever seen before. You will be there in a resurrection body. You will have an eternal future in a body that will never get sick, never get old, never hurt, never have any pain and you will live in the new heaven and the new earth, the stellar heavens, the new universe and the new earth here on this earth. And Christ will be here with us in the tabernacle. We will love Him and serve Him forever and forever and forever. That's our unique future. That is very unique. And we just don't have time to teach on all of it. But maybe that's some stuff you've never heard before. Read 2 Peter 3, see for yourself. It will all be destroyed, everything we know today, a catastrophic destruction because of the evil of Satan in wicked places. Everything Satan touches is going to be destroyed, the universe. The Bible says in Ephesians 6, spiritual wickedness in heavenly places, even in the stellar universe, it will all be wiped out. **This earth will be wiped out. There will be a new heaven, there will be a new earth and we will have new bodies and we will live there forever and forever and forever. But now you're here. You've got time left. Who knows how much? I don't know. You don't know. But we're here and we're here for one reason - to buy time for those behind us, to purchase the opportunity for them to hear the gospel, to grow spiritually, become part of the pivot, hold off the discipline of God on this nation because it's coming.** Just keep watching the news, it's coming. Anybody who stands up for Jesus Christ, anybody who stands up for anything right and rationally rejects sin and evil that is in our nation today will be persecuted, will be hunted down, will be maybe even slaughtered one day, who knows, it's coming. You must

grow spiritually. You must depend on God's grace in your life. You must be the pivot that holds this nation together. That's why I say these things to you. That's why I teach you these things. I'm counting on you to grow spiritually, to sacrifice anything to get the Word of God and get it as fast as you can in your soul so that you can help deliver the nation. You can provide a future for your children and your grandchildren apart from the discipline of God on this country. We are evil and we are looking forward to that discipline but hopefully you will buy us time. Until next week, this is Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.