

Philippians 2:25-30

Sunday 7/11/2021

Oftentimes, whenever Bob is not up here doing what he loves to do and preaching to us, he gets to do one of the things that I think would be the biggest blessing for any pastor or any spiritual father: for him to be able to display the young men that he has had an impact on in their lives. I am one of them that he has had a huge impact on; he changed my life. There are so many of you guys that have done that.

I am very excited today because he oftentimes will talk about how he will have John, or me, or Danny get up and preach. Then he will say, "But trust me, there are like 30 or 40 or 50 other guys that could have done the same thing." And I am like, "Yeah, there really are! You should get them up there because these guys are awesome." That is what the blessing has been today; you are about to hear one. This guy has been a long time coming, not only because of his knowledge of the Bible, but how long he has stuck with this ministry and with this church.

When I first met AJ, I was basically changing his diapers. No, not at all. Actually, if you guys know AJ, this is a man here; he never wore diapers. He came out with boxers and a pistol holster. No, this kid has been a blessing. Back when I started becoming the youth group pastor, one of the tough things about that—and some of you guys know that story—I did not even want to do that. I came here to learn the Bible and get closer with God. But Bob told me, "This is an opportunity in the ministry. Hey, what do you think about it?" And I wanted to be obedient, so I did it.

Part of the reason why is because back when I was in high school, I never really got along that great with the group of kids. I always thought, "Man, they are just so superficial and fake, and I am just not about this." Then I get out of that, I graduate, and the first thing he does is send me back to that same group. You have got to be kidding me! You placate people; you meet them where they are at and deal with that.

The cool thing about AJ, while I have been a young youth pastor, he was one of those kids that I could talk to like an adult about spiritual things in the Bible. It is not because he was faking it or just doing it because his parents told him, "Hey, make sure you talk to the youth pastor about spiritual things so he thinks you are spiritual." It is because this guy actually cared about it. You could see it. This is what he lived. This is what has always been in his heart and soul. It proved itself because of the tough times that he went through in life, not having his family around him, watching them be here and then not be here. The different struggles that he had to deal with being a young man without great parental influences in his life and still sticking to that book and watching that book develop him, bring him through, give him a beautiful wife, keep him in the ministry, establish him. Now you are about to hear what God has been doing.

For me, this is exactly what the church is about. This is The Old Paths' greatest heritage right here: not only being able to preach the Bible—you can get a lot of great preachers that are sensational that can put the word out—but to do what Bob has done, to be able to take himself, put himself in young men, and then reproduce himself in them. What you are going to hear in AJ is what it is all about, guys. That is a heritage not many churches have. Literally, there are like 50

of them that can come up here and do that. That is just a testament to our pastor and the awesome things that God has been doing through him. Now you are about to get to hear something from his fruit here. AJ, I love you, man. Thank you for all you have done and meant to me. Come up here and give us what the Lord has put on your heart, brother.

Is that on? That is on? Okay, cool. All right, well, my name is Ralph. AJ has left the building, so I will be here to fill in for him. If you have a Bible, go ahead and come over here to Philippians chapter 2. Philippians chapter 2, and I will be there and I will be in maybe a few other spots today, but that is going to be my main spot.

I. Understanding My Learning Style

Like Zach already said, my name is AJ Patrick. For those of you who do not know me, I have been around here for quite a while. A lot of you guys probably do know me pretty well. All of us here are pretty much, especially a lot of you guys to me, you guys are family and friends to me. So a lot of you guys probably know quite a bit about me and just my character and how I am, and I guess how I think and everything else. But for some of you that may not know me, just a little bit of a background so that way you can understand a little bit how I think.

When it comes to me, when I am putting together a devotion or a sermon or something like that, I am not the type of person who could sit down and just lay out something really, really complex and just expect myself to get it and expect you to get it. I am the type of person where I am very visual when it comes to learning. That is one of the reasons why I cannot sit in front of a computer all day and do that job. I am in an apprenticeship right now in construction, and 90% of my learning is literally hands-on. It is me going into work, and yeah, they teach us some stuff at school, but 90% of my job is getting out there and doing something and learning by actually doing it. I have always kind of been like that. I do not know why; I just have. If you were to toss me an algebra textbook or a textbook of any kind, it would be extremely, extremely difficult for me to put that stuff together and to understand what I am trying to learn.

Like I said, I am a very, very visual learner, but there is another thing and another way that I learn really well, and that is examples. I need examples like you need air to breathe. I need them to be able to understand something. Luckily, that is what has made it so easy when it came to just getting in my Bible and reading it and learning it, and even putting together devotions and sermons. Because the Bible, if you do not know—and most of you guys do know this here—the Bible is absolutely filled from cover to cover with nothing but examples of really, really complicated things that you really should not be able to understand. It takes these really complicated things and it breaks it down into something so simple one of the little kids in the Timothy group could get it.

A good example of that: you take something as complicated—and it is complicated—something as complicated as salvation, and it can break it down into something a kid can understand. I want anybody here who does not believe me on that, after we get done today, go back to one of the Timothy kids and go back and tell them that you have not showered all week and see what they say to you. See how they laugh at you. They will probably make fun of you and run off and tell

their friends, and then seven more of them will come up to you and ask you if that is really true, if you really did not shower. Go do that to them because they understand that you have to clean yourself. You have to be clean. Salvation is just like that. It takes something like your eternal soul—your eternal soul if it has not been clean, basically. It takes something so complicated like that, how God deals with it, what the Bible has to say about it. It takes this really big complicated thing and it breaks it down into something as basic as you need to be bathed. You need to be clean if you are going to be okay with God. That is all it does. That is what the Bible does.

It always worked out really well for me. I am not big into cooking and stuff like that, but I know if you are a baker, you can take something like leaven and bread, and you can understand salvation with something like that. If you have just a little bit in there, it ruins the entire thing, and it is the same way with you and me. If we have a little bit of sin in there, if there is something wrong with us somewhere, it ruins the whole entire thing, and you have got to get that out. That is what the Bible does. It takes these really big complicated things and it breaks it down into something super, super simple that even a little kid in the Timothy group could understand.

That is how I have always been. I do not really remember much of my first devotion. I remember really four things about it. I remember Zach asked me to do it at volleyball, I think. I do not know if it was youth group. I think he may have just pulled me and had me go do it for an adult group or something. I remember Zach asked me to do it. I remember being terrified. I remember being absolutely terrified to do it. I remember that I am pretty sure it was in Psalms 165. I do not remember the verse, but it was that verse over there that says, "Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them." I am almost positive it was that too.

But I remember another thing about it, and it was one example that I used whenever I gave that little devotion. I do not know why for some reason, I do not know why this got tied into it. I have no idea how it got connected. But I remember the example that I used was I remember when I was living at home, we had some woods behind our house. My brothers and I, we went back there and we played back there all the time. It was fed by a storm drain, which looking back on it, probably was not good to play in, even though we were doing that. But I mean, we did. We swam in it and did whatever we wanted to do.

I remember I was back there. It was around the fall time, maybe October, November, somewhere in there. If you have never been in the woods when it is around that time of year, in the springtime, especially when it is fed by a storm drain, you have all this water that comes down through, and usually it eats out these embankments. So you have these real steep areas where basically the water ate the creek bed out for quite a while. But in the wintertime, in the fall, you get just about maybe a six or seven inch little trickle going through the bottom. What happens when you have that is you have storms that come through, so they will knock branches over, and branches are kind of hanging off into the creek. We have rocks that kind of surface from the bottom of the creek bed because there is not enough water running through it.

Do you know what my example was that I remembered? I do not even know why I put it in there, but I can remember it to this day. My example was I was sitting on a log, and I was just doing whatever I was doing. I do not know what I was doing at the time. But I watched just one

single leaf fall, and it fluttered down and it hit the creek, just the water. I watched it, and it kind of flowed and went around this little bend right in front of me. There were some rocks here, and it hit the rocks and it kind of bounced off. It got stuck for a second, but then it rolled off and it kept going. Then it kept going down a little further, and there was a tree branch that had gotten knocked over, and it hit that tree branch. It got hung up for a second, but then it kind of broke through and it rolled off the outside. I watched it do that all the way basically down maybe to where the stairs were at, and then it turned around the corner and it went on and it did its thing.

Do you know what I got from that? I do not even know how old I was. What I got from that was I was pretty young. I was probably in middle school or whatever it was at that time. But I knew later on in life, I believed what people around here had told me. I believed what Bob had said. I believed what guys who got up and preached and what Zach was saying in youth group. I believed all these things that all these people told me: that there was going to be a lot of things that I was going to come up against in life. I had the option, I had the opportunity to choose, "Do I want to just go with the crowd and get stuck like all these other ones?" Do you know what? I could look at the fact that there was something in my way and look at everybody else who got stuck there, how they got in that situation. I could blame it on that and say, "Well, I am not the only one, so have pity on me. I am the victim here. I got stuck." Or I could have the option, "Yeah, I could run into it, and I could maybe struggle with it for a second like that little leaf did. But at the end of the day, it was my job to decide, 'Do I want to get stuck here? Do I want to just bounce right off this thing and keep going down?'" That is what I got as a kid.

That is what the Bible did for me. I could sit here and look at things in this book and all the examples, and that is how my brain always works. It went from things like that when I was a little kid of playing in the woods and whatever. It went from things like that to as I got older, it went into a weird fascination with special ops and studying those guys. It went from that to things with work, things I noticed there, or even just things I saw on TV or just saw anywhere else in life. I would sit there and I would just write them down and whatever because I cannot not see them. So I have always been like that. I have always been one of these people who has kind of thought about things like that. Like I said, as I got older, it kind of transitioned into things with work. That is another really good one too, just because I am able when I am there just to see so many parallels of things that we see in the Bible today.

II. Overtime at Work: Lessons Learned

For the last—I have not been on it for about two months or something like that—but from January, for about four months on from January of this year, and even a little bit before, the place I was at work, it required a whole lot of overtime from us. We were in the position I was in. I do not know if I already said it. I am in a plumbing apprenticeship in Kansas City. The spot they had us in, it was just a fab shop. What they did down there is if you had something really big that would be really difficult to build out in the field, they just had us build it, and then we just ship it out to them. The problem with that is the field is obviously the priority. You need to get everything out to them. So sometimes if they had a lot of stuff that needed to get done, they would throw us on overtime.

I learned a lot of things from watching guys on overtime. I watched that overtime, for one, it can be very tiring. I would watch guys come in, especially when you have been going for two something months on five or six tens. I have watched some of these guys, they come in on Monday, they are all chipper, and they are laughing, they are joking, and they are messing around with each other. You see those guys leave on Friday or Saturday, and they are straight up exhausted. They could not care about if they got something done on time. They could not care if whatever they got done was good quality. They do not care. They just want to get it over with, and they just want to go home to their families. So I noticed that. I noticed that overtime, it could get pretty tiring whenever we were doing that.

Another thing it could do is it could sometimes feel like you were not being appreciated very much. Now I am not at all, I am not going to sit here and say that I was not being compensated enough. I live in the United States. I get paid time and a half for working an extra hour out of eight hours. You are really blessed to live in a country that does that for you or gives you double time if you work on a Sunday or something like that. So I am not going to say I was not compensated well. I was; I was compensated very well. But I am not going to lie and sit here and say that I did not necessarily all the time feel appreciated. There is nothing worse than when you have worked already 40 hours that week or 50 hours, and your boss comes up to you, you are tired, you are not at home on a Saturday or whatever, and your boss comes up to you and he is like, "Hey, when is this going to be done? Are you almost done with this? Where are you at on this?" And you are just sitting here like, "Come on, man. I have been here all day. I have been working on this thing. You cannot cut me a little bit of slack." So sometimes I would not necessarily feel appreciated. I saw a lot of guys get that attitude, and they kind of get a bad attitude when it did come to overtime.

There is one thing I saw. I saw one thing that it did for not only me as the employee, but it did for my boss. It showed me if I ever get in a position of leadership one day, who in the world is going to be able to show up and work and actually do their job when we need a job to get done? It showed me that. It showed me who was actually showing up to work every day and working, and they were not just going and hiding in the bathroom or walking around or doing something. Who was actually showing up and working? It did the same thing for my employer. He got to see everybody and who was actually on the job and who was working.

Then after a period of time, whenever it came to me moving on and going out to a job site, just because they kind of do that in your apprenticeship just so that way you get a wide variety of things that you learn. When it came to that point where I was going to move on somewhere, do you know what the biggest compliment this guy had about me? It was not the fact that I had good quality work, which I hope I did. It was not the speed of what I was doing. It was not even my attitude. The biggest compliment this guy had about me when he was talking to the guy I was going to go work for is he said, "Yeah, he is a good hand. He will stay busy all day long. He can stay busy all day long." That alone was enough to make this guy I was going to go work for get ecstatic about, "Okay, well, I have a guy who can stay busy, and he will do something all day long." So I learned a lot of really good things and got a lot of really good examples out of that overtime that I was working.

The other thing I wanted to kind of do whenever I was asked to preach this morning, I did not want to just get up and talk about something that was not relevant to myself or to anybody here. I do not think, as far as I am aware, I do not think anybody here is struggling with drinking or smoking or drugs. If you are, you should quit your job right now. Go work for the CIA because you are really, really good at hiding your skills. Please go do that. Better this nation. Go do that or something else. Quit whatever you are doing. But as far as I know, nobody in here struggles with that. I wanted to do something and talk about something that if I was sitting in my seat this morning and Bob was up here talking, that it would be something that I could think about tomorrow when I go to work. It could be something I could think about the more I see things in the news and the more I see things kind of just fall apart in the world around me. So if you have not guessed yet, that is what my subject is going to be today. It is going to be "Overtime for the Christian in 2021." I think that is something that certainly needs to be talked about.

With that, I will go ahead and pray, and then we will go ahead and jump into this. Lord, I just pray you give me the words to say to these people today, Lord. These are all my friends and these are my family, Lord. I just pray you give them something from what you have given me. I pray you just give Bob the words to say up in Ohio and give those people up there a blessing and be with the Kennicott family and the Alexander family as they head home this upcoming week and just keep them safe and just keep all these people safe on their way home today after church and just give us all a good rest of the day, Lord. We love you so much. Amen.

III. Overtime for the Christian in 2021

Like I said, "Overtime in 2021 for the Christian" is what my subject is. Basically, I do not think I have to say this very much: you and I, we have a job to do as Christians now more than ever, but we have a job to do for Jesus Christ. You are not in regulation anymore when it comes to the Christian life. What I mean by regulation is you are not playing, you are not in this period of time anymore that the Lord has allowed for you. You are in overtime.

I like watching especially Chiefs football, but I like sports in general and just the competition aspect of it. I know I am pretty, I like going to the minor league hockey games and stuff when guys want to go to that. I am good for a baseball game and stuff like that. But Chiefs football is my real big one that I like. In all those different sports, you have a set amount of time called regulation that you can play that game and you can try to win. We know in hockey, you have three periods, I think, of 20 minutes. You have nine innings in baseball. You have four 15-minute quarters in football. In that period of time in each sport—I think it is 90 minutes in soccer; I do not even know if you are allowed to do overtime in soccer, so we will just ignore that for now—but you have that set amount of time called regulation where your job is literally to strategize, "How am I going to win this game?" That is what your job is. You can sit there and think, "Okay, well, we can take it easy here, ramp it up a little bit in the middle, and then coast the rest of the game." You can take it easy all the way up until the end. You can do anything you want. You can strategize and put whoever you want in the game as you want to try to win that game in regulation.

But unfortunately for you, you are not in regulation anymore. Do you know what the times you are living in are? You are not in regulation anymore. We all know that when you have that strategy aspect of that game, it is annoying for me especially because, like I said, Chiefs football is the thing I like watching the most. There is nothing more I cannot stand than when you have eight to nine minutes left in the fourth quarter. We all know what eight to nine minutes is in football. That ought to be just 25 minutes if you are really being realistic with yourself because you have the timeouts and the stoppage and everything else. When you have eight to nine minutes left in football and the Chiefs are up by like three or four touchdowns, which is great, I like winning. I like seeing them win. I absolutely cannot stand wasting my time sitting there watching these bums running up the middle for six inches and then figure out a way to get a first down and then run it up the middle again for six inches and just do that over and over again. It is boring. I do not like seeing these guys run straight up the middle, get stopped. Everybody stands up, kind of just stands around, waits for the clock to run down because that is what they are doing. They are trying to run the clock down, right? I cannot stand it.

I prefer watching overtime, especially if it is the Chiefs. I know some guys get stressed out by it because they are worrying if they are going to lose. I lose all interest at that point. I like watching these guys play in the overtime games because it really shows me three things. It shows me three things about my team or the Chiefs or whoever. It shows me three things about all those guys playing.

1.) It shows me if any of them have any grit. I watch some of these guys when they are in overtime, and they know the game is on the line, and sometimes it is just a worthless game, something in December or October or something. It is not even a playoff game. I watch these guys when they are in overtime. They will get blasted, and I mean absolutely blasted, something that should put any one of us in the hospital, and these guys will get right back up, and they will go right back to the line and do what they have got to do. Sometimes those guys absolutely, they cannot breathe. They need oxygen on the sidelines, and they just put it off because they know they are running that hurry-up offense, and they have got to do something. It really shows you who out there on that field has got some grit.

2.) The other thing it shows you, it shows you who is determined, who has determination to actually win that game, who is out there just to collect a paycheck to get their game check at the end of the day. Do you know what? It does not really matter if they go to the Super Bowl or the World Series. Who out there is determined by any means necessary to win that game? No matter how hard they get hit, no matter how well the other team is playing, who out there is determined to win that game?

3.) It shows you awareness most importantly. Every single guy out there is not only determined to win and shows grit, but every single guy out there is more than aware of where he is supposed to be and where everybody on his team is supposed to be. That quarterback will stand back there in the pocket, and he will know, "I know where each one of these guys is going to go, but more importantly, I know that if they are covered and they cannot run that original route, I know what their secondary route is going to be and where they are going to go." Everybody is aware of

where everything and everyone is at. That is what overtime does for you. You do not get to do that in just regular regulation time.

There used to be a time in this nation, and I guess in the world of Christianity, where you could strategize your life out before you did anything for Christ. There used to be a time where if you were my age, if you were 22 years old, I could have sat here and said, "You know what, I am going to do this instead. I am going to go to college. I am going to get a degree. After I get a degree, I am going to go get a job. I am going to get a really good paying job. Then while I am in college and I am at my, well, during college and when I get my good paying job, I am going to go drink and party and do whatever the heck I want to do and kind of get the nice little feeling that you get and the experiences you have got to have with the world. I can go out and do that. After that, once I lay up a bunch of money for myself, maybe then I will get married, and then maybe when I get married, maybe then I will have kids, but I want to make sure my kids and my wife and myself are all comfortable and whatnot. And then after that, maybe just after that, when I have got everything I want, when I have strategized my life out, when regulation for me is set and I am good and I am comfortable, then maybe now I will do something for Christ." You used to be able to do that in this nation. You do not have that option anymore. You do not have the option to look at your life and look over the next 20 years and say, "Well, I am going to do this and I am going to get comfortable and then I will do something for Christ." You do not have that option anymore.

Luke 21:32, we all know what that verse says. It says, "This generation shall not pass away till all be fulfilled." I am not going to get too much into that, but we all know what the gist of that is. That is talking about when the nation of Israel in 1948 bloomed into an actual nation, that pretty much set us on the course of really the end times. That nation, the people born in 1948, are going to see the rapture of the church and everything else happen. Right? So we all know what that says.

We also know that in Psalms 90:10, it says, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten." I guarantee, and what that means, if you do not know that, that means that the Bible literally told you, you are really only guaranteed. You are really only allotted 70 years for life. You are only allowed 70 something years for life. It says, "And if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." So it is really not even worth going past 70 if you really want to look at it objectively. So the Bible says that you have got 70 years, 70 years total, and anything past that, you are just going to spend that in labor and sorrow.

Ask any of those folks down at the nursing home. Next time you guys go down, do not be rude and do what I would do and come up and say, "Hey, what hurts today?" Do not do that. Just go up and talk to them and say, "Hey, how are you doing? How did you sleep last night? How is your day going?" I guarantee you, you will get at least one who says, "Well, my knee hurts," or "I did not sleep very well last night," or "Oh, well, this hurts," or "That hurts." They are not enjoying it. I mean, they are there to be there. I am sure life is great for them and whatever, but they do not feel like you and I feel right now being younger. They do not have just a carefree attitude. They are in pain, they are laboring, and they are in sorrow. That is just a biblical truth.

But knowing that, if the Bible is true, which it is, if the Bible is true, do you know what the math is between 2021 and 1948? Do you know how many years it has been since then? It is a pretty shocking answer. Between 1948 and 2021, it has been 73 years. That is how long it has been. Somebody born in 1948 right now is 73 years. Do you know what that tells me? That tells me that right now, right now, on July 11th, 2021, I am officially three years into overtime. That is a terrifying but yet exciting thought to think about.

Knowing what Psalms 90:10 says about overtime, overtime for the Christian, if the Bible is right, that you are only really allotted 70 years, if the Bible is right, that means that you and I as a Christian, anything over 70 years that now we have to serve in overtime for Christ, you are going to spend that in labor and sorrow. You are not going to spend it enjoying life. You should at least be spending it in labor and sorrow. Do you understand how much against everybody in this room is? Well, I am sorry. Do you know how much against the world is against everybody in this room and that Bible?

Do you understand right now that I do not know if it is necessarily all schools, but at least right now I know in a lot of states, the push to literally brainwash your kids—because it is, it is literally a push to brainwash your kids—to take any sense of church history away from them, to take any sense of just regular history of this country away from them, to literally tell them that they can be whatever they want, whether that is the other gender or whatever, to tell them that they ought to pretty much hate any sort of authority? They ought to hate you. They ought to hate any moral standard that they have in life. Do you understand the brainwashing process that your kids are pretty much up against in school today?

Do you understand that you live in a world right now that demands—it does not ask, it does not ask. They used to say they would ask, but they do not anymore. They literally demand of you that you love things that are unlovable. That is what they are telling you to do. If you do not, then they call you, they say you are not tolerant, and they are going to come after you in every aspect of your life. They require tolerance of you, but they cannot be tolerant of the fact that you just believe a book and what it says. They cannot stand that.

I am real bad about getting up early and reading. So to compensate for that—and I should be, I should change it and get up earlier—but to compensate for that, I just take my, I got one of those little, one of those little black, I think Bob calls them the combat Bibles. I just got one of those, and I will just take it to work every day in my lunchbox. All I do is I read it on my break and my lunchtime. You ought to see some of the looks on these guys' faces when you pull that thing out. I do not get up and pass tracts out or start reading out loud. I will just be sitting there reading it. These guys, big eyes, scoot away, they do not want to be anywhere near it. I have one guy ever, he asked me, he is like, "Hey, are you reading the good book at lunch?" And I was like, "The good book, what are you talking about?" And he is like, "Yeah, are you reading the good book at lunch?" And I was like, "I guess, what makes it good to you?" I do not know. Tell me what you think. I do not know what he is talking about, but they get terrified. They do not even want to call it the Bible, man. It is too scary of a thought for them.

Do you understand that the world around you is so against everything in this book? Do you know what? If you are trying to do anything, and I mean anything, I do not care if it is praying for your lunch. I do not care if it is just keeping a good attitude at work and having a good work ethic. I do not care if it is not cussing or talking the way they do. I do not care what it is. If you are trying to do even something, something bare minimum for Jesus Christ, this world is so against you that you ought to be laboring in sorrow, and you ought to be straight up worn out. You ought to be ready to go home right now, not even have to go to work tomorrow.

Do you know how many times when I was working overtime, I would be driving to work at, we were starting at 6 a.m. So I am getting up at 5 something in the morning, maybe even earlier than that to go to work. Do you know how many times I would be driving to work and I literally just sit and think, I was like, "Lord, I am so worn out with going to work right now and so worn out with overtime. If you would just do me a favor and come right now and just take me out of here, drift me over to the right hand lane, run the truck off into the ditch somewhere. I do not even need anybody hurt. Just drive it off, make it look like an accident, let them deal with the mental trauma of what they find on the inside of there whenever I am gone. I do not care. But just pull me out of here right now." Do you know why I thought like that? It was not because I am a suicidal maniac. It was because I was so worn out with going to work every day. I was so worn out, and I was just, I was literally just laboring, and I felt like I was in sorrow because I was so sick and tired of going to work. That is exactly how right now if you are doing even this much for Christ, even this much, this whole world is so against you and I, you ought to be worn out trying to do something for Jesus Christ today. It is just that simple.

IV. Jesus Christ: The Ultimate Example of Overtime Service

Do you know a great picture of somebody who was actually in labor and sorrow, not only in their ministry, but their entire life, and who knew when he was in overtime? If you have not guessed yet, it is Jesus Christ. Go ahead and come over here to Matthew 26. Matthew 26, and I will read something over here about Jesus Christ. Christ understood that he was in, he was not only in overtime in this passage, but he was laboring and he was in sorrow the entire time because he understood what was going on.

Matthew 26:36-38

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Let me ask you something. It says there in verse 37 and 38, it says that he began to be sorrowful and very heavy, and 38 says that his soul was exceeding sorrowful. What on earth makes you think you have the right not to feel like that when Jesus Christ did for no reason? When you

really look back at the story and the timeline of what is going on, you realize Christ really did not have to go to Gethsemane? He really did not have to do that. He had to do really the Last Supper and then just wait to be betrayed and then go to the cross and pay for your sins.

Do you know why he went to Gethsemane? He went to Gethsemane because he was so burdened, and he was so sorrowful and torn up as a man because he knew what he had to do. He was going there to see if, "Hey, is there any way I can maybe, is there another way I can do this without having to literally separate myself from God the Father, the first thing that he ever, the first time he has ever had to do that." That is what he went to Gethsemane for, and he was sorrowful and he was heavy over that. If Christ felt like that, why on earth do we not feel like that? Why are you really comfortable right now and life is really great when you are three years into overtime, but Jesus Christ for no reason at all had to feel like this?

What are you holding back to be a little bit more comfortable? Are you holding back your testimony, and you do not have the guts to pray for your lunch when you are at work? Are you holding back maybe the fact that you ought to talk different and act different than the people at work or at school or whatever it is? What on earth are you holding back to be just a little bit more comfortable? How selfish and how rude and just a jerk move of it is it of us to make Jesus Christ feel like this when he did not have to, and you and I are just going to pass that on and pass the bucket later on down the road? It is absolutely despicable to look at that and compare that to us.

Matthew 26:39

And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Are you willing, if you are doing something for Jesus Christ, are you willing to go even just a little further for Jesus Christ's sake? I mean, he was for you. He did not have to be there in the first place, but he is not only dealing with the emotional feelings of what he knows he is about to go through. He is dealing with that, and he is still going a little further. Do you understand? I do not think that he was really that torn up about the physical torture aspect of it like I would be. That would be my biggest concern. I do not think that is what he was that worn out about. I mean, I think he understood, "They are going to rip my back open where you can see my ribs and my organs and stuff. Then they are going to put a dirty piece of wood that has splinters and stuff, and they are going to rub it all up and down that thing and make me carry it all the way up there. Then they are going to hang me up on a cross and sit down and watch like the Bible says, like I am some TV show, just watch me get tortured up there. Then they are going to strip me naked, embarrass me, throw dice for my garments and stuff like that." I think he knew all that. That is what was really bothering him though. He was sorrowful and he was heavy because of the fact that he knew he was going to be separated from God for the first time. That bothered him. But yet even so, even still with all that going on, he was willing to go a little further.

I do not think I need to really say much about it, but we all know one thing, which is Christians today are not willing to go, let alone even go a little farther. It is hard enough to get him to get up and just pray, get him to just have a testimony at work or at school, get him to get up and just maybe take a little bit of abuse or take something from somebody, just get made fun of and be

able to walk it off and smile about it. You can hardly get him to do that, let alone get him to actually really do something for Christ, really actually get him involved in the ministry or get him to invest themselves into something in this church. Right there it says Jesus Christ, he was willing to go a little further for you. Are you willing to go a little further for him?

Matthew 26:40-46

And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

That is a good verse too that you ought to memorize and put on your window or something like that. That way you see it every day. He does not even bother with them anymore at this point. Most of God's people today, in overtime at least, are just asleep. That is the state of all of them right now. They are asleep. They do not know what is going on around them. You need to wake up. You need to wake up and look at what is going on in the world around you and what they are moving to do and what they are moving to try to take away from you or maybe even do to you here in, I do not know how long. But you need to wake up and see what is really going on in the world around you today. Wake up. Stop being asleep. Stop being okay with Jesus Christ literally walking up to you in your spiritual life and just saying, "Just sleep on now, take your rest. It does not matter. Do whatever you want to do. You are not doing anything anyhow. You are not going to do anything when I wake you up. So just keep sleeping. Enjoy it. Wait till I come back and I will deal with you later." Do not be okay with Jesus Christ saying that to you. Get up. Wake up. Look around. See what is going on in your school. See what is going on at work. See what is going on in the country you live in and be aware of what is happening. Just a great example in Jesus Christ over here of somebody who knew he was in overtime, who knew what was going on, and he was aware and he was awake for it, and is probably the best example you will get of somebody who really just put it all out on the line for you.

V. Examples of Faithful Service

The Bible has plenty of good examples of people who were actually on the job. People like you and me. People who were not God incarnate in the flesh. People who were human just like us and who have problems and whatnot, but they were on the job and they knew what they were

doing. One of my favorite ones is over in 1 Corinthians 16. Go ahead and come on over there, and we will check that out, and that will be, we will be over there for just a second. But 1 Corinthians chapter 16 is another really good spot where it shows you, it shows you some guys who were actually on the job, who understood there was something to do, who understood that they were on overtime, and they did not have very much time left, and they needed to get something done. We will go ahead and start in verse 13.

1 Corinthians 16:13-18

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Let all your things be done with charity.

I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.

I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.

For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.

This does not have anything to do really with just the fact of being on the job. That is another good verse that especially if you are a man, you ought to have memorized or at least have in your mind at some point. You live in a world today that absolutely despises the idea of actually being a man and doing something for Christ and or just doing something manly in general. Be a man. Look at what is going on around you. Watch like that verse says, watch what is going on. Stand up. Do not sit down and just take it like they expect you to. Stand up. Do something. Be willing to take one off the chin just for no reason. I was watching last night. I was just watching the UFC fight deal, and some goofy kid in green hair had the guts to walk for three rounds and take like 200 shots right off the face, man. You ought to just be willing to do that for Christ. You do not need a win. You do not need to beat anybody necessarily. Let eternity take care of that. But just be a man and stand there and be willing to take 200 off the face for Christ. Do something, man. Be a man and be strong. Not many men are left.

Are you addicted to the ministries of this church? Is there something here that if it got taken away from you, a ministry, something you are doing here, is there something that if it got taken away with you, you simply just could not go without? It would absolutely destroy your life if you know you got a discipleship group taken away from you or if maybe we stop going and we stop doing lifelines or we stop doing something. Have you wholly given yourself to something?

Let me ask you this. I think it is about a year and a half now, and I understand there were some, there were some aspects of, I do not want to say legal, but I know they had some new standards and stuff like that down there. But anybody here actually get sorrowful and get a little beat up that you cannot go down to Restart anymore? Or do you enjoy your Sunday afternoons? Is it nice now that you get to leave church every Sunday? You know you do not have to go down there and mess with those dirty old bums and stuff like that. Look, I get it. It was not the greatest

experience. I did not like going down there every single day, every other Sunday and doing that. I will be honest, there were some times I just did not really want to. It does not mean you are always going to enjoy what you have got to do. But you know what, you love it and you do it, and it hurts to get taken away because you are addicted to it. You are wholly given to it.

There were some people here, I know there were some people here who were actually invested down there with some of the people we were working with, some of the people we got to talk to. If it did anything for you, it taught you how to be a servant at least, dragging mattresses out of rooms and moving stuff down there, throwing away trash. Who in the world wants to do that? But does it bother anybody that you cannot do Restart anymore because certain circumstances came up? Or do you enjoy it? Is it a relief? Are you glad that, "Oh, well good, there is one more thing off my plate?" No, it is one less thing you can do for Christ. That is what it is. It is not one less thing off your plate. Are you wholly given to something in this church, some ministry, something? I do not even care if it is just praying for somebody. Are you wholly given to praying for people on the prayer list? You have got to have something. If something got taken away from you in this church, would it absolutely destroy you because you are simply just addicted to it?

I am not a person who has got a lot of, I do not have a lot of hobbies and stuff like that. I know some guys enjoy disc golf or something like that. I like to get into it, but I have never been crazy about pursuing stuff like that. My two big things that always just entertain me whenever I was not here at work was hunting and fishing. That is why at the beginning of this thing I told you I was playing around in the woods as a kid. I just liked it. It was always fun for me. I always enjoyed it. But I know myself well enough—and this is not putting AJ on a pedestal and saying, "Well, be like AJ." That is not what this is. I am not going to speak for myself. I know myself well enough that if I was presented with a week-long, all expenses paid, guaranteed you are going to kill an elk in Alaska trip. If I was presented with that and it happened to fall in the same week of camp, I would not have a problem choosing where I would be. I know I really would not. Because at the end of the day, I enjoy hunting and fishing as a hobby. I am not addicted to it, though. I enjoy it a lot. I am sure you guys all have things you enjoy and you like to do. But I am not addicted to it. I know what I am addicted to. I know that the whole time I would be up there in Alaska doing whatever I am doing, I would be thinking, "Well, they are probably going to do an activity now, and then they are going to go do it." I could not even enjoy myself because I am so addicted to this place and doing stuff that we have here. I absolutely could not leave it. I just know myself. I cannot speak for you, but I know the people here who have invested into me. I know the ministries and the things that I have gotten invested in and that I put time and work into. It is not worth giving up anything else for it. Is there something like that here for you that you want to give it up for anything, no matter what it is that they presented with you? Are you addicted to the ministries of this church?

Have you supplied what others in this church and what others in Christianity are lacking today? Have you supplied that? Are you lifting more than your fair share? And yeah, I said it right. Are you lifting an unfair amount because other people will not pick it up? Are you willing to do that? Or are you just going to say, "No, you know what? I have got my family, my guy I am discipling, and my job and my life, and that is all I am going to be willing to take because that is the fair

amount, and everybody else needs to pick up theirs." Or are you willing to instead pick up an unfair amount of work because others are not doing it?

You have three things about these different guys you see here.

> 1.) *Submit to those who are doing something.*

Verse 16 says that you submit yourself unto such and to everyone that helpeth with us and laboreth. Do you know what that says right there? This is a really good, this is just a really good thing to know and something I got to learn really early on. Do you know what your job is if you are just getting into this and you do not really know what is going on? It is a really easy one. Just submit yourself to the guys who already know what is going on and are doing something.

I told you I am in an apprenticeship for work. Do you know when you show up to work the first day as an apprentice, when you show up as a first year, they do not expect you to know a thing? And I mean not a thing. I am working with a guy right now who, he is a first year apprentice, this kid does not know how to read a tape measure, and he is in construction. That is like not knowing how to type and going into writing books or something like that. He is not in a good spot. But nobody is giving him garbage about that. Nobody is trashed him on that and made fun of him. They just, do you know what they told him? They said, "Go out and get one that has got the labels on it so that way you can start learning. And after you learn, then we will get you a normal one and stuff like that, and you cannot be made fun of near as much." It is okay. But they do not expect you to know much. The kid does not know how to read a tape measure. He does not know the difference between sizes of pipe and whatever. I will say, "Hey, go get this type of pipe this size." The kid just glaze, glaze in his eyes. He does not know what is going on. But they do not expect him to know that. And they did not expect me to know that when I got in.

Do you know what impressed them the most and what they wanted to see the most? They cared not about what I knew or how fast I could learn. They cared if I was willing to show up, watch, ask questions if I did not know what was going on, and keep my mouth shut. That is what they wanted. They did not want me talking unless I said, "Hey, I see you are doing this. Why are you doing it like that?" And then go quiet after that. And let them explain it to you and then watch and learn. That is all they wanted. They did not expect me to get out there and just start blabbing my mouth and talking about everything I thought I knew. I needed to show up, watch and listen, and do not talk near as much. Do you know that is the key to really getting into the ministry and figuring out what you is doing at a sped up level? Show up, get underneath some of these guys who are doing something. Get underneath their ministry and watch them and learn from them and just be quiet and watch. Submit yourself to them and do not try to act like you know what you are doing when you do not. That is all you have got to do. That is the first thing you see about these guys is they were able to submit to those who were already out there getting after it and doing the work.

> 2.) *Supply what is lacking.*

The second thing you see is over here in verse 17. It says, "For that which was lacking on your part, they have supplied." I have got a quote from a preacher, I do not know who he is, I really

wish I did because I would have put it down in here. But I have got a quote from a preacher that says, "Ambition is wanting recognition and it is the flesh. But a real desire to be used of God is to be of no reputation and to do whatever you can." That is God. That is the quote I got from this guy. Are you part of the small remnant that is actually doing the work? Not only that, you will know you are a part of that small remnant. If you are just getting out there and you are doing what you have got to do, not so that way you can get shouted out from the pulpit on Sunday morning, not so that way somebody can come over and just slap you on the back after church or whatever or after you get done doing what you are doing, you are just doing it because you need to do it. That is the real way that you serve the Lord and make up for that lack of service from other people. Just keep your head down, go do what you have got to do, go do what others will not do, and just let the Lord take care of it in the long run.

> 3.) Refresh others and receive acknowledgement.

Do you know what that does? You look at verse 18, you just doing that. You just making up for the lack of service of other people. It does really two things. For one, it says in verse 18, it says, "For they have refreshed my spirit and yours." Do you know that you doing that and just doing what you ought to do and doing more than your fair share and making up for others' lack of work. Do you know that is not only just a refreshment to Bob, seeing you just get out there and take care of it and not saying a thing and not complaining about it. Do you know that is just a refreshment to other people around you? I can talk about that and I can speak about that from experience. I can because I grew up here watching several men walk over and they looked at this pile of stuff that another guy had just shrugged off. This guy's family, somebody they are discipling, this guy's wife, whatever. This guy's testimony, all this stuff. Somebody just dumped it right over here. I watched multiple men in this church just walk over, pick it up, throw it on their back, walk it over here, right across the finish line, put it down, kind of roll their shoulders around and get loosened up again, pick another piece up, walk this guy's family over here, put it down and make sure all that work that he should have done that was his responsibility, I watched multiple men in this church just walk over and make up for that guy's lack of service.

Do you know what it did for me as a kid? It refreshed me because I saw it. I saw guys who just, they were playing the game and they were showing off when they were here and whatever. But in reality, the other five days of the week or whatever it was, everything was just a mess. I saw that and it was refreshing to me to see other guys who had no business taking care of that guy's kids, that guy's family, that guy's responsibility, anything. They did not have any responsibility to that and they had no business doing it. Instead, they just walked over, they picked it up and they walked it to the finish line. A lot of those guys right there, somebody in their family came out of it. Something good happened because somebody else was willing to make up for a lack of service on somebody else's part. It was refreshing to me. It was refreshing to see that. It did something for me as a kid.

Then you look at the end of verse 18, it says, "Therefore acknowledge ye them that are such." If you are worried about not getting recognition anyhow, do not worry about it. It will come with time. You may not get it right when it happens, but the Bible promises you that in time you will get acknowledgement. Somebody will see what you did and somebody will see what you were

putting yourself through and they will acknowledge it. The kid that you helped out or the person that you helped out or you were working with, they will acknowledge the fact that you were the one that really stepped up to the plate and took care of that lack of service.

1 Corinthians 16:12

As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.

Is now a convenient time for you to do something for Christ? I have said it multiple times already. We are in overtime. You are not in regulation anymore. You are in overtime. Is it convenient now for you to do something for Jesus Christ? Or instead, is it convenient maybe tomorrow, maybe next week, maybe next month, or shoot maybe even next year? When is it going to be convenient for you to do something for Christ? I heard a great quote just from Ruckman multiple times where he says, "Only one life will soon be passed. Only what is done for Christ will last." Do you know how scary of a thing that is to think about? What do you do every day that is actually going to last in eternity because it was done for Christ? That is a terrifying thought to think about. Is it convenient now for you to do something for Christ, something that is actually going to last all throughout eternity? You are running out of time. You are running out of time, and you need to take advantage of the time you have left.

Is the ministries of this church too inconvenient for you and your schedule? Are souls out there who need help, are they too inconvenient for you and your schedule and what you would like to do? Is your family, your family, which should be the most convenient thing, is your family itself an inconvenience for you because you rather do your own thing and learn about, pretty much make yourself, put yourself on some high pedestal or something, but in reality, you just leave your family in the dirt? Is your family an inconvenience for you as well? Do you know what? There is no other good way to say it, but this is the truth about that. Your selfishness, your selfishness is the real inconvenience of what is going on. Your selfishness is the real inconvenience for the guys who I watched growing up who walked over there and picked up your lack of service. That is what the real inconvenience is. It is not you. It is not your schedule. It is not the ministries of this church or all the things that, reading your Bible or whatever. It is your selfishness that is the real inconvenience in the world we live in right now and especially for Christianity. When will it be convenient for you to do something for Jesus Christ? You are running out of time. You are running on overtime right now. You are officially three years in. I do not know how much left we got. When is it going to be convenient for you to do something for Christ?

VI. Epaphroditus: The Model Soldier in Overtime

I have got one guy in my Bible who, I have got notes next to a lot of people in my Bible and whatnot, but I have got one guy in my Bible who every time I turn and I, my Bible opens to that when I am trying to turn somewhere else, it kind of jolts me. It is like getting a little shock of electricity or something just because the notes I have next to this guy's name and just what I know about him is so exciting to me. But I have got a guy who has got plenty of notes and marks

next to his name, and he is only mentioned two times in your Bible, both in Philippians. When I saw this guy the first time when I was growing up, yeah, Philippians chapter two if you guys want to turn over there. When I saw this guy get in when I just came through my Bible, I knew immediately when I read about him that this guy needed to be not maybe not yours, but AJ Patrick's role model. I knew that immediately. Not some Navy SEAL or Green Beret or Ranger or SAS guy or anything like that. As much as I like reading and learning about those guys, I knew that it was not supposed to be some spec ops guy or some athlete. I needed this guy to be my role model. This guy is where my sermon comes from. Again, this guy is somebody who understood what overtime really was for Jesus Christ, one of the few that I found.

Philippians 2:25-30

Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

This man's name is Epaphroditus. This is a man who meant business in your Bible. This is a man who saw what was going on, saw the need of work that needed to be done, and he just did it. You notice how over in 1 Corinthians 16, you have got three people who are supplying the lack of service of an entire church, which is still impressive. Do not get me wrong. That is a remnant for sure. You have got three different people over there supplying the lack of service of an entire church over in 1 Corinthians 16. Do you know what the difference between 1 Corinthians 16 and Philippians 2 is? Here you have got one man supplying the lack of service of an entire church. You had three over there. This guy took it to a whole other level, and it is just one man. This church had one man to stand in the gap, one man to serve, and one man to suffer, and he was willing to do that. He was okay with doing that. This guy knew what it was like to be Christ-like. This guy was not putting himself on the back burner and washing out for himself. He was one man who was willing to stand up and do anything and everything he could to make up for the lack of service of this church.

> 1.) *A Good Soldier for Christ*

You look at verse 25, and verse 25, it shows you that he was a good soldier for Christ. It says that he was Paul's brother, companion, laborer, and fellow soldier. Do you know what you have got there? You have got a brother for hard times, is what this guy was. You have got a companion

for good times when things are great. You have got a laborer for the work when things really need to get done, somebody who can just shut up and get out there and do what they have got to do. Then you have got a fellow soldier for combat, for when things really, really get heated and things are really, really ugly and people are turning on each other and there is blood and there is guts and everybody is just cutting each other's throats in the ministry because they do not know what is going on and they do not want to get hurt themselves. This guy was able to be a fellow soldier, and he was able to stand his own in combat. I really hope, and I would hope that in eternity I could find this out, I really hope somebody here would hopefully one day be able to say that about A.J. Patrick. That he was not only a brother for the really hard times but he was a companion for the good times. He was able to shut his mouth and work whenever he needed to like a laborer, and do you know what? When things got really, really hairy and things got really ugly, he was a good soldier. I really hope somebody will be able to say that about me one day like Paul did about Epaphroditus.

> 2.) *Ministered to Wants*

Number two is also found in verse 25 where it says that he ministered to my wants. This man thinks beyond the mission. He takes care of his fellow soldiers. He takes care of these guys not only in their needs, he does not just step up and just do what somebody needs which is discipleship and getting a baseline start in the Bible. That is not all he does. He does not just do the bare necessities. This guy looks a little farther than that. He takes care of somebody's wants. There are a lot of things that you and I need as Christians. We do. There are a lot of things. This church does a great job of supplying it. You need Bible study. You need Sunday morning. You need institute. You need all the things that Bob offers. But do you know what you do not need? You do not need to go to Worlds of Fun as a church and have a good time. You do not need to go to Branson as a church to have a good time. But do you know what? This church and Bob supplies some wants for you. You would like to do that. Yeah, it is fun. You want to go to Branson. You want to go to Worlds of Fun. That is the type of guy that Epaphroditus was. He was not only willing to show up and supply people's needs, he was willing to show up and supply their wants.

You look back in the Bible at David back there at Bethlehem and him and his mighty men are standing around and they are talking. We all probably know the story back there where David was wanting that water from Bethlehem. You realize David did not need that water. Put it into perspective. He was the king. The guy had all the food he wanted. I guarantee you he had plenty of water. Shoot, he probably had plenty of grape juice and everything else that he could want over there in that camp. But him and his mighty men were standing around and they were talking one day. I am sure it was just a regular conversation where he just said, "You know, I know we are going down tomorrow and I know we are going to take it, but I am about to go to bed and to be quite honest, guys, I just like some of that water. I miss it. I grew up with it. It has got some good memories in it. I enjoy it. It brings back some stuff from my childhood. I just want some water. I just want some water from Bethlehem." He did not need it. But do you know what those mighty men did? David went on to bed, and those mighty men stood around. I guarantee you they talked and they were like, "Let us do the math here. One of us went down into a pit in the

snow and killed a lion on our own and then proceeded to kill a guy with his own weapon. Then another one, one of us, we cannot let go of this sword still because it is still clasped to our hand because we killed a bunch of guys over some beans. And then some other of us, we killed a whole group of Philistines for no good reason, just on our own because everybody else wanted to leave. What on earth is preventing us from going down and getting some water? The guy wants it. I know he does not need it. He has been good to us. He has taken care of us. He is a good guy. Why do not we just go get him some water?" That is what they did. They went down there and they got David the water he wanted. We know that when they came back and whatnot, that it was a really good deal for them. David poured that out to the Lord, and it was a good moment for Israel.

But you notice something about that story. It was not the regular group of soldiers that Israel had that went down there and got it. It was not just the regular encampment of Israel that said, "Well, we like David and yeah, he has protected us and he has done a really good job of being a captain and stuff like that. Let us all just go down and get the water." That is not what happened. You had a very small remnant of mighty men and should I say, women in this church who went down there and they just supplied somebody's wants. Something that David did not even need. They went down there and they supplied that for him. That is what they did. It is the mighty men and women in this church who really actually not only minister to people's needs, the things that they need to survive, the things that they need to grow as a Christian. It is the mighty men and women in this church who not only minister to their needs, but they minister to their wants. They get uncomfortable willingly so that way others can be comfortable and actually enjoy growing up and trying to learn and get something. They are the ones who are really getting done something for the Lord. The ones who go out there and put their needs and put their wants on the sidelines just to give you something that you do not necessarily even need, just something that you want. Those are the people who are really getting something done for the Lord. You see that example back there with David and his mighty men. You look at this verse over here in Philippians. Epaphroditus, mind you, he was sick. The guy was on the verge of dying. He was sick, but he still was willing to put Paul first and put his needs and his wants on the side.

> 3.) *A Selfless Soldier*

Lastly, the last thing about Epaphroditus is that he was a selfless soldier doing whatever he could. Verse 30 says, "Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me." This man was on the verge of dying, but he was still working and doing something for Christ. He knew that he was expendable. He saw the lack of service from God's people, and he put that lack of service and what needed to be done in one hand, and he put his life, his physical life, his real life. The guy was sick. He put that lack of service of something eternal in this hand, and then he put his physical life of something temporary right here, and this ended up weighing out. He ended up choosing to go and make up for that lack instead of putting his own life in the better category, should you say. It is thinking that was more important.

I have got a note here about the guy. I said I have got plenty of notes on this guy, but I have got a note next to verse 30, and I do not even remember when I put this in. It may have been on a

Thursday night or something. I do not know when it was, but it was certainly whenever I first came across this, and this was long before I even had this sermon ever as an idea in mind, but my note here it says, "Lord, give me some overtime. I will do what no one else will." Is that the attitude that you and I have today? Epaphroditus certainly did. This guy's life was literally on the line, and he said, "Lord, I am willing to do whatever it is. I do not care if it is set up tables. I do not care if it is moved chairs. I do not care if it is take out the trash. I do not care if it is simply just to pray for people. I do not care what it is. I need something to do, and I know other people around here are not doing it, so I am going to make up for it." Ask the Lord to do something in this overtime we are in. Do not just stand around and be found not doing anything and just kind of twiddling your thumbs until the Lord comes back. Ask the Lord for something to do. Put your life, your wants, your plans on the back burner and get something done for Jesus Christ while you still can. You and I are running out of time. I do not know how else to say it. Look around you in the world. Go home and just search up some of the stuff online about just to get a good idea of what is going on. You do not have 20 something years. You do not have any of that. You are on overtime already. You are running out of time.

VII. Seven Things Requiring Overtime Service

In closing, I have got seven quick things that require our service in overtime for 2021. I could not get up here and just talk about how we are running out of time and we are on overtime without at least saying some things that require that overtime, without talking about some things that there is a lack of service right now in the world we live in because there are some things right now that Christians and people, they do not want to do. So I have got seven things here that require your service in overtime if you really want to do something for Jesus Christ.

1.) Our Families

The first one is standard, but it is also one of the most important, if not the most important, and that is our families. Fathers and mothers, the deck is simply stacked against you. I do not pretend to stand up here and talk like I know what I am really talking about because I am not a dad. But I do know what I see in the news and I do know what I see going on. The deck is simply stacked against you. Do you know there was a time in this country where you could trust that you could send your kid to school and they would not come home hating your guts and they would actually think that there are some good things in life and there are some moral standards? There was a time you could do that. There was a time you could kind of rely on the schools to turn your kid into a halfway intelligent human being who was going to do the right thing in society. You cannot do that anymore. You are in overtime. It is your job to put in the extra work. It is your job to make them into what God wants them to be, to establish some sort of moral standard and tell them what the Bible actually says about what is going on. You cannot just send them off and hope for the best anymore. Everything is so stacked against those kids. It is your job to put in the work. Work overtime for your family. It is supposed to be exhausting for a reason.

Husbands, obviously, build something into your wives that will sustain them with these years to come. Overtime will simply wear them out. It will wear us out, but it will wear your wife out

looking at what is going on and looking at the uncertainty in the future. Build something into your wives. Work some overtime into your spouses and especially into your kids.

Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Is that your attitude or is it just hanging up in your kitchen somewhere? Because I know we all probably got one in our house. Is it just hanging up in your kitchen or in your house or is that truly your attitude? If things really hit the fan, are you really willing to stand up and say, "No, no, I am sorry. You know what? No, I am not even sorry. I am glad it irritates you. I hope you get irritated and I hope you stay like that. But we are going to serve the Lord. We are going to do what we need to do." They are not asking for any tolerance out of you. Do not be tolerant out of them. It is fine. Noah had in the end. All he had was his family. We know the comparison of Noah's days and today. Are you going to have at least your family in the end of this thing? If you did, then you did a good job. Congrats. You did a good job if you have your family in the end of this thing like Noah did. Focus on your family and put the overtime in with your family.

2.) Your Conversation / Testimony

The second thing is your conversation or as some of us would know better, your testimony. Do you realize people are watching you now more than they ever have in their life? Why do you think it terrifies guys at my work when they see me pull out a Bible to read? Do you understand that you literally just not talking the way that they talk at work is enough for them to, their ears to go up and for them to get curious? People are watching you and I now more than later.

Genesis 34:30

And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

Does your testimony stink right now among people at work? When you walk by, do they laugh and probably go, "Oh yeah, I am sure he was at church yesterday. Yeah, I am sure he was. Oh, okay, ha ha, he, he, we will make fun of him. I am sure he will join in in the jokes here later on at lunch. I am sure that he will get mad at something and bang his finger or whatever and then he will just go off cussing and stuff like that." Does your testimony stink among those at school, at work? Put in the overtime on how you act. Think more now about how you act and what you say than you ever have in your life because it is necessary. Put in the overtime on your conversation and your testimony.

3.) Your Personal Time with Christ

The third thing, put in the overtime with your personal time with Christ. If you are not spending more time with him now that it is all getting a lot worse, you will not last. Get closer to Jesus

Christ. I am going to turn, you guys do not have to come over here, but Luke 10:38 is probably one of my favorite spots, if not one of my favorite spots for sure in the Bible. It is that story over there of Mary and Martha.

Luke 10:38-42

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Do you realize in life right now, especially in overtime, if the Bible is true, that you know you are supposed to be laboring in sorrow right now if you are a Christian doing something for Christ, do you realize that you are already cumbered about with a lot in the world you live in? You are cumbered about with work. You have got to deal with just whatever is going on there. I know you guys know your jobs better and I know your jobs, but you have got whatever is going on there, whatever your boss requires out of you and what the people say and how they talk there. It is cumbersome. It is exhausting to go and deal with every day. You are worried about money. You do not know what the heck is going to happen to your savings or your retirement or anything else while you may as well just forget about it. You are not going to be here to retire, so it is okay. But you are worried about money. Things are getting more expensive. You are worried about work. You are worried about whatever the heck the government is going to do next to mess with you and mess with your, just your everyday life. You are worried about your kids, what is happening to them at school and just in their daily life. You are worrying about your marriage. That is cumbersome. You think about it all the time because you just you do not know what is coming next.

But do you know what Jesus Christ said here? It said that Martha was careful and troubled about many things. Do you know what his solution was to her? He said in verse 42, he said, "But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." There is one thing that is needful in life right now, especially in overtime where we are at. That is a relationship with Jesus Christ. I have got a note. I do not even know when I made this one, but I have got it just in this while I keep it in my bag just in case I want to look at it. But it says Luke 10:42. And I have gotten quotations that says, "But one thing is needful." And I have got an arrow pointing to that and it says your salvation. Then I have got another arrow pointing to this passage and it says your issue. It says, "My issue is thou art careful and troubled about many things." I said I got something here that says, "Only one thing in life is needful. And that is fellowship with your savior. Let him settle the rest." That is the only thing that is needful for you

and me. Get your personal time with Jesus Christ worked out. Make sure you are closer to him today than you were yesterday. And so on for tomorrow. Because if you are not, things are going to get worse, and you are not going to be able to survive that overtime. Put in the work with Jesus Christ now. It is the time is over to play games and just show up here and enjoy what is going on. Although that is great. It is time to get a real relationship with Christ. Put in that personal time with him.

4.) Prayer

Number four is prayer. Put in some overtime with the Lord in prayer. Get closer to him by talking with him more. That may soon be all you have. It really may. Psalms 9:9-10 is a great spot over there where it is just talking about David going through a rough time. That is really one of the only things he had was his relationship with Christ and the fact that he could talk with him. It may be the only thing you have in, I do not know how long. I would venture to say it would be pretty soon. It is all Hannah had. You look back there at Hannah. She did not really have a husband to help her out in that situation she was going through where she was all emotionally torn up. She did not have a preacher really to go to. The guy thought she was drunk when she was so upset about it. She did not have anybody to go to besides the Lord. Put in some overtime like she did with the Lord in some prayer. It will do you a lot of good, and it will help you especially in these last days.

5.) The Unserved World

The fifth thing. Put in some overtime with the unsaved world, the people you work with, the people you go to school with.

Psalms 142:4

I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

Do you know that is how unsaved people feel today? It is not a joke. It is not just a descriptive little passage that David wrote down because he was having a bad day. That is an in-depth look for you and I on how unsaved people feel. Try to remember how the heck you felt before you got saved. No man cared for my soul. That is what it felt like.

I was like every normal American. I have got Netflix. So I remember a few months ago, I do not remember why we were doing it, but Sarah and I, we found this show, and I cannot even remember the name of the show. But it was basically, it was one of these goofy deals where they did like a docu-series on some guy who like different restaurants and stuff, and it is so dumb because they always try to make, they try to take something as simple and not serious as owning a restaurant and turn it into some like world-breaking event. You know like something big is going to happen. You know like they, the one I am about to talk about, there is this guy, he was, I think he lived in Australia. He liked playing in the ocean and all this other stuff. It is stupid. I remember one of the things that annoyed, I do not know why it irritated me so much, but they like, they show at one point like there was some like, like this giant sound, like science-breaking discovery where he is like, "Oh I had caviar and I had it on this piece of lettuce and I left it in the

oven and then it got smoky and then it had a smoky taste. Oh my God." Then they charge you \$150 for something like that. It was so annoying. I cannot stand it.

But that guy, he was talking at one point about how he was out in the ocean doing something and doing whatever. He was talking about when he, it was when he was a kid. He was out there in the surf and playing, and something happened to where it sucked him under. He would come up and he would get right, he would get like right about here to where the surface is right here. You know, you can see it pretty much. He would get right up there and right when he would get about there and he, you know, you kind of are getting ready because when you are that close, you know, you kind of are getting ready to take a big breath of air. So he is like, he is just, he is there physically ready to get some air. He would be right there, and another wave would come, and it would just push him under. It would just shove him back in right back down to where he was. So he went from being here to, like another 12 feet down below the surface. I cannot imagine that feeling. I cannot imagine being that close to being able to breathe and then it pushing you down. But you know, like the people are trying to be serious in the show. So they ask him, they said, "Well, what did it feel like? What did it feel like whenever that was happening?" What do you think it felt like? Maybe you are drowning. You cannot breathe. So they are trying to turn it into something stupid.

Do you know what his response was? It was kind of saddening to me, honestly, to think about it. I was like, I would like to have an opportunity just to sit down and talk with this guy. Do you know what he said? He was like, "Well, I was a kid, and my last moments where I was just, I was sitting there trying to breathe and I could not breathe." He said, "I was not mad. I was not hoping somebody was going to show up." He said, "I kind of expected that I was going to die." Do you know what the three things he said he felt were? He said, "I felt lost. I felt lonely. And I felt afraid."

Do you understand every person you work with who does not know Christ, every person you go to school with that does not know Christ, they may hide it. They may walk around and say, "No, everything is great. I got my paycheck. I got money. Everything is great for me. My family is doing good." They may lie to you and tell you all that. But deep down, if you really got them in a corner, they would tell you, "I feel lost. I do not know where I am going. I am just standing out here. I got no idea what is going on around me. I feel lonely. There is nobody here to help me. There is nobody that cares about me. Nobody has a thing to say to me. And I am afraid because of those other two. I do not know what is going on." That is the real state of unsaved people today. If you feel like that, there are people here who really do care for your soul. I would suggest to you to find somebody, maybe that you came with or somebody here that talked to you this morning, find someone to help you and actually care for your soul. Because much like us as Christians who are running out of time to serve the Lord, you are running out of time to accept Him. So that is the fifth thing. Put some overtime in with the unsaved world, with the people at your jobs and at school. They feel lost, lonely, and afraid.

6.) The Ministry and This Church

The sixth thing is the ministry and this church. Obviously we have talked a lot about this. But we know over in Nehemiah 3:5, it talks about how the nobles out there, they did not want to put their necks to the work to do something for the nation of Israel. But if you want to put it in our sense, do something for Christ. I think it is funny because it says that the nobles did not want to. You realize you are not a noble if you are saved. You will be one day. You will be royalty one day when you get out of here. But you are a servant right now. Do your job and be a servant. I do not know who you think you are thinking you are a noble to where you do not have to put your neck to the work right now. You will get that later. But right now, do your job and be a servant. Do something in the ministries of this church. Invest something here. Do something worthwhile and invest something in eternity. Do not invest it somewhere out in the world. They do not care about you. It is overtime. Your neck ought to be to the work for the Lord. Do something while you still got time.

7.) The Master

The last one, put in some overtime for the Master.

Luke 19:13

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Every single one of us here, if you are saved, you have been tasked with a job. He expects you to do it. He does not expect you to take those 10 pounds of whatever he gave you and go bury it somewhere and wait for him to come back. He expects to get some interest off of that. You have been tasked with a job. Do it. When you cannot do it anymore or when you do not think you can do it anymore, be like Jesus Christ over there that we read about. Just go a little further. Do something. Go a little further for him because he was willing to go a little further for you.

With that, I will go ahead and pray, and then you guys can go on about your day. Dear Lord, thank you for today. Thank you for giving me the words to say to these people. They are my friends, Lord, and I would not trade any of them for anything in the whole world. I pray that you just give these people something today and hopefully something I said will just make them or give them, Lord, something to think about and take seriously the rest of this week and hopefully the rest of this overtime that you have tasked us with, Lord. I pray that we all just take these things seriously and put you first, Lord. I pray for the safety of everybody here on their way home today and just give us all a good rest of our afternoons, Lord. We love you so much. Amen. Amen. Thank you.