

Hebrews 12

Sunday 8/13/2023

It is a privilege for me to be here this morning, and I am very grateful. I have appreciated Bob and his family for many years. When I was younger, Bob was a dear friend to the pastor where I got saved, Eugene Whalen, who is now in heaven with our Lord. I am very grateful. I got to meet Bob throughout the years; he has been such an encouragement and a blessing. I am very thankful. I was saved here in Independence and grew up here, and I am very grateful. I went to both public school and Christian school, graduating from Christian school, for which I am very thankful.

Not long after I graduated, well, right before I graduated, I surrendered my life to be a missionary and take the Gospel, as the Lord had put that on my heart very clearly. I left Independence and went down to Tennessee. I was in Bible college and met my wife there. We got married right after. My father-in-law had this crazy rule that you have to graduate before you get married. I thought, "Good night, I was born to get married! What in the world kind of dumb idea is that?" I am a pretty patient guy. I had a rough time in school with studying and those different things, but whatever happened, I had a great motivation to get married. I was able to do four years in three years at college. With the right motivation, anybody can do anything. Patience is that great virtue that I possess, so a week and a half after graduation, I got married. Praise the Lord! I was about to wait no longer.

The Lord was good. My wife and I got married, and that weekend (we got married on a Monday), we started raising our funds to get down to the country of Argentina. We traveled the United States for about a year and a half, and right after that, we arrived in South America. We learned the language of Spanish. While we were there, God began to give us children. My first daughter was born about a month right before I left the United States. My second daughter was born in Peru when we were at language school. My third daughter was born in Argentina after we had arrived and were ministering. My fourth daughter was born in Argentina. We came back to the U.S. on a visit, and my son was born. I said, "We have to stop crossing borders; we're having too many kids!" So we stopped right there.

God was good to us. We lived and served in Argentina. God allowed us to start churches down there, and radio ministry, and a prison ministry, and a Bible college. Things were just going well, and God seemed to be blessing. In 2012, we were back on a visit to the United States, just kind of updating on what God was doing. God, once again, kind of changed our ministry and our focus. We returned to the United States and went down to Atlanta, and that is where we have been ever since, for the last 11 years. God now lets me serve over a lot of missionary families. I am very grateful for that and get to help them. Then I serve over a missions college, a mission school that helps young people get to the mission field. God is sending a lot in. We just accepted a new missionary last Monday. Now, God, throughout this full-time, we are accepting a lot of new missionaries, and God has got us out of a slump and ready to roll again. I am so grateful for what God is doing.

I want to say thank you for allowing me to be with you all this morning. My family and I are very grateful. At this stage of life that God has us in, I have, as I mentioned to you, five children.

It is kind of divided by my son and my daughter, who are 11 and 13 years old. Then we call them family A and family B. My others are 19, 20, and 22. So we have a little division right there. My oldest daughter is now married. Next month, my second daughter is getting married. Then three months after that, my third daughter will be getting married. So you pray for sanity at this time in our life. My wife is trying to balance and help each of our daughters. They wanted to get married in September and October. I am like, "Are you serious?" One, there is a lot of this wedding planning. Now, I will not lie, I do not do any wedding planning. I have no idea. I really do not care. My wife, she does all that part. I am thinking more of, "Do you know that whoever started this really ignorant American tradition that Dad pays for the wedding? Who thought about that anyway? What a dumb idea!" Some traditions have to be kicked out the door. But anyway, so I said, "You have to give Dad some time to recuperate before we go into death zone 101 again." Somebody said, "Did you hit the lottery or what?" I said, "No, but if I rob a bank, you are going to know what is going on." But God has been good. We are very thankful, and I am grateful for this opportunity.

Hebrews chapter 12. Allow me just to, if you have a pen, we will underline a couple of different things and maybe study this passage here before we get down to the entire passage of maybe dissecting it, maybe pulling out some things. We are going to run a little bit everywhere through the Scripture. So if we could, let us do this. If we can, everybody raise your right hand. Some of you are confused, like, "Why are we about to swear something?" No, just raise your right hand. If you do not know which is right, raise any. I cannot tell the difference from here anyway. We are going to look at several different Scriptures. So what we are going to do is we are going to practice. So pinky, your index finger, point towards the sky. Everybody right there. Ready? Good. Now bend your finger down halfway. All right. Now point it this way. All right. Halfway. Good. We are going to get the exercises going. We are going to turn to a lot of portions of the Scripture. And now you are ready to roll. Now we are ready to go. Now we are going to look at a lot of different ones. If you say, "I use other fingers," it is all right. Use whatever one you want. But we are going to go to a lot of portions of Scripture. We are going to end back up in Hebrews chapter number 12, and we are going to dissect this portion of Scripture.

Hebrews chapter 12, we will begin in verse number one and we will go down to verse number two. We will stop there. We will see the matter of which we are going to study.

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

If you have a copy of the Word of God and you have a pen with you, would you underline those first three words in verse number two, "Looking unto Jesus"? "Looking unto Jesus." Now, you might throughout your devotional time or maybe through a preaching time, maybe a study that Bob was doing through here, you might already have that underlined and maybe even

highlighted, maybe circled, and many different thoughts there. I realize this is a wonderful portion of Scripture, and much of the Word of God, it is not something maybe that we learn anew. Many things that we grow by are old things.

The book of Deuteronomy is one of my favorite books. The book of Proverbs is my favorite book, but the book of Deuteronomy is kind of the book of Proverbs of the book of the law or of the first five books of the Bible. The book of Deuteronomy is a cover of only 30 days. In other words, everything that was said in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, now it is repeated right before Moses leads them across the Jordan River there. Right before he does, excuse me, right before they go across that Jordan River, they are repeated and they are reminded once again. Everything that was repeated in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, they repeat. So the book of Deuteronomy is over a one-month span of time, and it is just a repetition of everything. You know why? Because repetition is the mother of all learning. Many times we want to learn something new. Many times we want to grow deep and go deep, and that is all right. But many times what we need to do, we already know.

Remember what James 4:17 says:

James 4:17

17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

We know many times. I grew up in church, and before I was saved for many years, I would cause havoc in our church. I always loved chocolate chip cookies. Anybody like chocolate chip cookies? God bless the grandma who created those things. Yesterday, we got to the State Fair. Who was it, Danny, that bought that whole bucket of cookies? That is like my love language right there. I am like, "Give me those, baby!" They were good and everything. But you know what? I used to go into church, and as I would go into church, I would go into the nursery and I would steal the chocolate chip cookies out of the nursery. I know that is wrong. I would like to justify it by saying I was just trying to help the little kids so they did not get cavities when they get older. But I used to go in there just in case the preacher went a little bit longer, man, I would have the cookies. My pastor never had to preach a message on, "Let me give you five reasons why it is wrong to steal cookies from the nursery." Nobody had to preach that to me. I knew exactly what that was. Many times we do not necessarily need a message; we just need to be reminded of what we already know. So right here, we see a portion of Scripture of what you very well know: "Looking unto Jesus." So our theme throughout this morning is "Looking unto Jesus."

I. Where Not To Look

I want to break it down in a couple of different steps here. If we are going to look unto Jesus, first of all, we must realize we are not to look in our lives. Where are we not supposed to look? If I was to say, "Follow me," and you are like, "All right," obviously, if you go the opposite way, you are not following. The Lord says, "Look to Me." If you are not looking His way, then obviously we have to, let us talk about where not to look before we get to this portion of

Scripture. Let us talk about where we are not supposed to look. So follow with me very quickly, and our fingers will move quickly.

Romans chapter number 12. Now, we are going to end back up in Hebrews chapter 12, so do not lose your place, but we are going to go on a long journey of several different passages of Scripture before we end up back there. Romans chapter number 12 in your Bible. Romans chapter number 12. "Looking unto Jesus." So where are we not supposed to look in our lives? Look at this.

Romans 12:3

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

So where are we not supposed to look? We will start our journey now. Where are we not supposed to look?

1. We are not supposed to look as to ourselves.

Many times we have an inflated view of ourselves, right? We are so good, and we have got so much. We have learned so much. Here is what the Bible says: "Let no man think higher than he ought to think of himself." May we be careful, dear friend. One of the greatest sins that the devil grabs ahold of is the sin of pride. We jump on that bandwagon and we start thinking of ourselves. As we go through the Scripture, there are probably about 21 of them. He says, "Prefer one another," and "Honor one another," and "Love one another," and "Exhort one another," and "Serve one another." You remember all these "one another" verses. Why? We are to get our eyes off of ourselves. If we are to look to Jesus, He said, "First of all, before we talk about looking unto Jesus, let me tell you where not to look. Don't look to yourself."

Remember what Proverbs 3:5-6 says:

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Realize that it is not all about you. Sometimes we think, "You know what? All that I have is because of me." No, you do not. You have all you have because of God. Realize that all your talents, realize all your treasure, realize all your time, realize everything that you are and everything that you were and everything that you will be, it is because of God, not because of you. Now we must work at that. We must kindle the fire that God has placed within us, but realize all that we are and all that we ever will be, it is because of God, not because of us. So we are not to look, "Don't look to ourselves."

Let me show you another very quickly. Second Corinthians chapter number 10. Second Corinthians chapter number 10. Now, if we are to look to Jesus, where are we not to look? Well, we are not to look to ourselves, thinking that we know or we can do it. In fact, in verse number

one, it said, "the sin that doth so easily beset us." What does that mean? There are things that you and I, we might have different issues, yet we all have our issues, right? Sometimes we look and say, "Well, he has got a bigger issue than I have." Do not do that. But you know, we all have our issues. There are sins that do so easily beset us. So dear friend, remove all obstacles, remove anything that might beset you. Do not think that you can handle it. You say, "I am too big, no temptation can get me." Are you crazy? The devil would love to take advantage of the situation. Do not put yourself in bad air. Do not look to yourself. Look to Jesus, right? But not only look to, not look to ourselves.

Look at Second Corinthians chapter number 10. You know this portion of Scripture.

2 Corinthians 10:12

12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

It is not wise. So where are we to look? We are to look to Jesus, but let us talk about where we are not to look. We are not to look to ourselves.

2. We are also not to look to others.

Now we are to put others before us, but we are not to look to others, simply meaning that we are not supposed to be comparing. Do you know when we compare, only two things can happen? We become very prideful because, "Well, I am not as bad as that fellow." You know, "Good night, he has got it rough." Sometimes I think I am bad, but you see, yeah. So we look and we compare ourselves. So it is pride, right? And the other side of that is discouragement. We never measure up. So here is what the Bible says: "They that compare themselves among themselves, they are not wise." You know, when you are riding a horse, if you fall on the right side, you fall on the left side, you still fall off the horse, right? So you look and you begin to compare yourself and say, "Well, I am not, you know, I am a lot better than him," or "I am absolutely nothing. Now I am destroyed. Now I do not want to go to church because I am not as good at..." We compare ourselves. This is what the Bible says. We are to look to Jesus. We are not to look, "Don't look to ourselves." Also, "Don't look to others."

Let me give you another one real quick. Isaiah chapter 26. Isaiah chapter 26. Now I realize that all these are reminders of things that you already know. But before we get to looking to Jesus, we must realize where we should, we should not look in our lives. Isaiah chapter 26 in your Bible. Isaiah. So we are flipping over to the Old Testament, one of those major prophets, not because major, because it is better than, but because it is major to a larger portion. So Jeremiah and Isaiah and Ezekiel, some of those are major prophets because they are longer, they are more extensive. So the minor prophets, we are going to the major prophet of Isaiah. And look what happens here in Isaiah, Isaiah chapter 26. And look what the Bible says here in verse number three. Now you realize that context here that God is speaking to Israel, but there are so many lessons for you and I, so much that God has for us.

Isaiah 26:3

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

So where are we not to look? We are supposed to look to Jesus. We realize that. Where are we not to look? We are not to look to ourselves. We are not to look to others.

3. The third one here in Isaiah chapter 26, we are not to look at the obstacles.

He says, "Perfect peace have they," which, excuse me, "perfect peace have they," and he said, "whose mind is stayed," it is focused, it is stuck on Me, "because he trusteth in Me." When you look at the obstacles, the problems are big. But when you look at the power of God, the problems are small, right? You remember David went out there before Goliath, and everybody is trembling in their boots, and everybody, "Oh my goodness!" Even Saul, that is the head and shoulders above absolutely everybody, says, "Good night! I mean, this guy is a giant, look at him!" You know, I always like to imagine, I mean, you know, Goliath was over nine feet tall. They say that your hand, you know, it is probably, it goes, I do not know, almost half of your body length. So nine feet, you know, put another three, you know, let us just say three. And I mean, you have got at least another, now he is 12 feet. Can you imagine the dude on your basketball team? "Hey, Goliath!" Like he makes Shaquille O'Neal look like a little girl. He is a man. Like, you know, you do not even have to be good. Like, Goliath is like, "Ah, boom!" Somebody gets ready to shoot, he is like, "Boom!" What a man! But you know what? When David went down there, everybody is looking at the size of the giant, and David was looking at the size of his God. When you and I, dear friend, if we are going to look to Jesus, where we cannot look, "Don't look to ourselves, don't look to others comparing ourselves, but don't look at the obstacles."

If you begin to look at the obstacles, you are, all of a sudden fear will get in. And when fear goes through your body, it paralyzes you and you cannot move. You say, "I can move," but spiritually speaking, you become discouraged. You do not want to do it. You cannot move forward in your life. So many Christians are paralyzed by the fear in their life, and they cannot move forward. You know why many people do not tell people about Jesus? We get scared to death. We could talk to anybody, but when all of a sudden we bring up the idea about, "Let us talk about the Lord," all of a sudden we get scared, right? There are so many different, "I am not about the singer, I am not about the lead, or I am not about the help, I am not about the inviting," but because fear goes through it. Do not look at the obstacles in your life. Look at the opportunities that God can use those obstacles, right? Look at what God can do through those things. "The bigger they are, the harder they fall." So when God sends an obstacle your way, say, "Oh Lord, help me." That peace that He is speaking of is that same peace from Philippians chapter 4, verse number 7. You remember that?

Philippians 4:7

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The peace of God that will be with you, that passes all, what does it mean, "all understanding"? In other words, you can be in the middle of a storm and you can be calm as all get out. Why? Because you could have peace in the middle of a storm. When the world is frantically running

around like chickens with their head cut off, saying, "We cannot do it! Things are happening!" We can be so calm because our God is with us. The obstacles, do not look at them. We can even speak about those obstacles, but go with me very quickly. Let me take you to one more. Luke chapter number 9. Luke chapter number 9. "Looking unto Jesus." We know where to look, but we are speaking about where not to look before we get to where to look and how we are talking about where not to look. We are not to look to ourselves. We are not to look to others. We are not to look at the obstacles. Let me give you one more very quickly. Luke in chapter number 9. Luke chapter number 9. So New Testament, where Matthew and Mark and Luke and John. So we are right there in the third book, the book of Luke, written by this doctor, this medical man. Luke chapter 9 and verse number 62, coming down to the very end. The kind of our Lord Jesus Christ. Look what it says here.

Luke 9:62

62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

So dear friends, where are we supposed to look at our lives? Well, if we are to look to Jesus, we cannot look to ourselves. We cannot look to others. We cannot look to the obstacles, how big they are.

4. We also cannot look over our shoulder.

Now this can go two different ways. Looking over our shoulder, thinking everything was perfect back then. "If I can just get it back then." No, dear friend, we will never get the genie back in the bottle. "If I only had it like when I was younger, if I only had it like whenever, whatever it was, or when I had more money, or when I did not have the money," whatever it is, looking over your shoulder, wishing and trying to live in the past. You know, Humpty Dumpty, everybody knows, right? Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall and had a great fall. All the king's horses and all the king's men, they cannot put the past back together again. We like to put the past and we like to create it again and all the, we can look at the pro side of all the good things that all the wonderful days and praise the Lord for the good memories, but I am talking about living in the past.

But I am also talking about that other side of looking over our shoulder and not getting over our past. You know, many people, because of a tragic whatever it may be, can never get over their past. Maybe something bad happened to you, and maybe it is real. I am not diminishing the idea that it is real or that it was not big or it was not tragic. When we were in Argentina, we preached it many times, it would break my heart that many of the little girls that were eight, nine, and ten years old that were sitting right there were abused by their uncles and their brothers and other people. Man, I so much wanted to get the old gladiator outfit on and go and beat the slop out of the punks that were doing that to them. I hurt for them, and many of them would get saved, and they would try to go forward. All of a sudden, as they would try to go forward, look to Jesus and serve the Lord, all of a sudden their past would yank them back down, and the devil would whisper in their ear, "You remember when that happened? You remember? You will never be used for God." In our past, dear friend, listen, you can do nothing about the past. Learn to give

that up and learn to follow the Lord. You will never be able to look to the Lord while you are looking back in the past.

You notice it is wonderful in our car that you have. Did you notice that the rearview mirror is so much smaller than the big window that we have right in front of us? But many times we try to look right in the rear, we try to live our lives like we are looking back in the rearview mirror. You are going to get in a crash, dear friend. Stop, you will not make it forward. You must look right through the windshield and go forward in your lives. So where are we not to look? If we are supposed to look to Jesus, we are not supposed to look to ourselves. We are not supposed to look at others comparing ourselves amongst ourselves to not be wise. We are not to look at the obstacles, though they are real, though they are big. We must realize that there is an obstacle mover, right? There is a chain breaker. There is somebody who could get rid of those. And we are also not supposed to be looking over our shoulder.

II. Where To Look

So let me take you in another portion of Scripture very quickly, and we will go to the book of Colossians chapter 3. Colossians chapter 3. Now, "Looking unto Jesus." So I spoke to you and I shared with you what you know so well, where we are not supposed to put our eyes. We know we are not to put our eyes. Let me show you very quickly where to look in our lives. Colossians chapter 3 very quickly. And we are covering a lot of ground to get back to Hebrews chapter 12 in just a moment here. Colossians in chapter 3 in your Bible. And look what it says here. So we know where not to look. Where are we to look? Now look very quickly in the book of Colossians in chapter 3 and look at verse number 1 and verse number 2.

Colossians 3:1-2

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

If you then be risen with Christ, now you are a child of God. If you be risen with Christ, seek the things which are where? Above. Where Christ sits on the right hand and sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection on the things where? Above, not on the things of the earth. So dear friends, where are we not to look? We are not to look to ourselves and to others and the obstacles and over our shoulder.

5. Where are we to look? We are to look above.

Look at the things above, simply meaning that we can get so focused that we begin to look at all the things in front of us. And God says, "No, no, no, eyes right here. Eyes right here." My son many times will get off course, and we will be doing something. I say, "Hey buddy, look, look, look at Dad, look at Dad." And he will be whether he is crossing the river, trying to go over or whatever, whatever it is. And, "Look, look, hey buddy, look at Dad, look right here, look right here." Many times our Lord says, "Quit looking at all the mess that there is in the world. Look right here, look right here, look right here. Quit looking at the distractions that are so besetting

you to get you off. Look right here, look right here. Quit looking and getting so discouraged. Look right here, look right here." He says, "Where am I to look?" He said, "Look at the things above." Our feet must be placed here. We know that. We have to walk here and there, but our eyes must be placed up there, dear friend. We can keep going, but our eyes, you remember what he said, that those that are stayed, their eyes are stayed and they are focused on Him. When your mind is focused on the Lord, all the little things do not begin to bother you.

Psalm 119:165

165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

That obstacle that is in the way that so disturbs you, that so bothers you. And all of a sudden when your eyes are focused on Him, you are like, "Get out of my way!" and just keep on walking. You keep on moving. If not, dear friends, people will bother you and things will bother you and headaches and all the trials of this world will bother you, but keep focused on Him.

Matthew 6:33

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

What is Matthew 6:33? "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things," the things that we run after for the great American dream, the things that we want with our, "I want all of this," "all these things they will be added to you." Do not get your priorities out of whack. When you get your priorities out of whack, just keep remember, "Look to Him." That is what we must do.

Go through very quickly to Matthew chapter 16. Matthew chapter 16. We are not to look. Well, we know we are not to look. We are to look, look at the things above. Matthew chapter 16, this time the Lord Jesus Christ is speaking to the apostle Peter. You know who Peter is, right? He is the fellow with the shoe-shaped mouth, right? I mean, every time he just opens his mouth and inserts his foot. Sometimes there will be at a table with some friends or something, and it gets quiet. And when it gets quiet, my wife gets nervous. And the reason she gets nervous is because I do not do quiet so well. So sometimes I am like, "I will just say something." And usually what I say preemptively, not practiced, not ready, I really say some dumb things. You are like, "Yeah, we are listening to you right now." I am saying even worse. It gets really rough. So I was like, "Do not say anything." Here is a good piece of advice: if you do not have anything to say, do not be obligated to say it. Boy, we just, but here comes Peter. He is like, "I have a good idea, Lord." And at this time, the Lord said, "I am going to Jerusalem. They are going to crucify Me. They are going to, they are going to, they are going to nail Me to a cross. I am going to die." And Peter all of a sudden stops. He says, "Do not go there." And look what the Lord said. I mean, like Peter, like, "Did you even think through what you are about to say?" Once again, you know, he is always saying something dumb. "Do not go there." And here is what the Lord says in Matthew chapter 16, verse 23.

Matthew 16:23

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

"But he turned Jesus unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan." Like, what in the world? If you have got a friend and he turns back to you and says this, you are like, "Seriously, dude, like, what, what did I do wrong?" Look what he says here, "and get thee behind me, Satan." But why did he say that? This was not an insult. Look what he is saying, "for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Your focus is in the wrong place. Where are you not to look? Yeah, we know we are not to look.

6. Where are you to look? Look at the things above, but also dear friend, look to the things of God.

When we savor the things around us, when we savor the wrong things, he said, "Hey, that is the, the devil is whispering in your ear, man, you are off track. Get it right. Do not look at those different things."

Go to one more, Psalm chapter 119. Psalm 119. And after Psalm 119, we will quickly make our way back to the book of Hebrews and chapter, uh, Hebrews chapter 12. Psalm 119 very quickly, longest book in the Bible, longest scripture or chapter in the Bible, Psalm 119. And look if you would Psalm 119 and verse number 18. Look what the Bible says here.

Psalm 119:18

18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Speaking of the Word of God. And he said, "Would you open my eyes that I can see the things that you have for me, God, open my eye, the marvelous things." So where are we not to look? We know we are not to look. Where are we to look? The things above and the things of God.

7. And now the way we are to look to the Word, to the Word of God.

This right here, dear friend, and if we go a couple more verses that way, towards the end in Psalm 119, verse number 105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." How we know how to live in this deep and nasty and dark and confused and wicked world. It is so dark. And how do we know how to raise our kids and how do we know how to have a good marriage and how do we know how to have a good testimony or a good job? Whatever it is, we say, "I do not know. I never studied those different." That is what the Bible says. This is a lamp unto your feet and it is a light unto your path. You do not have to know how to, you do not have to be a smart guy or a smart girl. You do not have to have an education. It does not matter what your grades were. I remember in high school, they said, "You know what? You better get a GPA, a good GPA." You know, I praise God. I have never had anybody ask me my grades in school. Usually I tell them beforehand. I mean, the best three years of my life were in fourth grade, buddy. I mean, I was growing facial hair by the time I was in fifth grade. But anyway, I mean, man, I had a rough time, but you know, all those things, but listen, let me tell you what does matter. The Word of God. And you and I as a child of God, we speak about the Word of God, but many times we are not in the Word of God. Get in the Word of God. And as you get into the

Word of God, the Word of God will get in you. Your life begins to change. We are to renew our mind by the Word of God, the way that we think, the way that maybe that you grew up or the things that you heard or whatever influenced your life. How do we change those? "That is my default setting." No, no, he says, "You can renew your mind. You can refresh it. You can get it all. You can reboot the whole thing by the Word of God that liveth and abideth forever." The Word of God is your answer. How do I know how to raise my kids? There is so much confusion around whether gender can be, whether all the things that, how do I know? He says this right here in the dark world, "It is a lamp unto your feet. It is a light on your path." Keep following Him. He will show you the way. How do I know how in my marriage or whatever it may be, God will show you the way, dear friend. What God does not say directly in a command, God gives in a principle, but God's Word. So where are we not to look? We know. Do not look to ourselves. Do not look to others. Do not look at the obstacles. Do not look over our shoulder. Where do we look? The things above, the things of God, and the Word of God.

III. When To Look To Jesus

Go with me to the book of Hebrews chapter 12. Now grab a pen and let us begin our study very quickly. Hebrews chapter 12, and we will spend this portion. Here is where our meat of the message is right here, Hebrews chapter 12. I will not be long, but Hebrews chapter 12. Let us go one more time in verse number one, if we could. Grab a pen. Hebrews chapter 12. Now we remember verse number two, there is our text right there. Now we are going to look above and look below and we are going to get the context and see what God has to teach us, what God has to say right here. Verse number two, it said, "Looking unto Jesus," and we underlined that and that is what we are doing. We know we are not to look. We know all that, but now we are to look unto Jesus. But when are we to look unto Jesus? And here comes the question. When we know that we are to look to Jesus, we know we are not to look, we know where to look, but when are we to look to Jesus? So this text is going to answer the question for us.

Hebrews 12:1

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

"Wherefore seeing that we also are compassed about with such great a cloud of witnesses. Lay aside, let us lay aside every weight, the sin that doth so easily beset us. Let us run with patience." Look at these next few words right here. "Race that is set before us."

8. So when are we to look to Jesus? We are to look to Jesus in the race.

You know, life, you know this very well. This is nothing new. This is nothing that you would, "Oh my, never thought about." Life is like a race, but it is not like a sprint. It is like a marathon. I remember when I was a kid, I would run in a hundred-yard dash, blow it out and give it all, you know, run with your head up, stick your tongue out. It did not really matter. But give it your all, man. I mean, you are about, you could see the line, man, it is so easy, but you know, in life you do not see the finish line. It is a race. Man, it gets tiring. Man, you are like, "Oh Lord." I mean,

this race in which we are, it has some ups and downs. It is like a roller coaster. You know what a roller coaster does, right? I have no idea why anybody in their right mind, when I was a kid, I rode a roller coaster. Now that I am a mature adult, well, mature is still to be spoken for, my wife says, but an adult anyway, I do not ride roller coasters. Why? Like, what do you, you give you a free pass to a chiropractor when you get off the thing? I mean, come on. It rolls you, it goes up and down and all around, rips your neck to pieces and you are like, "Oh Lord, was that awesome?" Like, "Oh yeah, it was great." You are like, "Man, I cannot even see straight." But you know what? That is what life does to us, does it not? It rips you all around, up and down. You just, man, you cannot, "How do I even stay steady, Lord? How do I continue, Lord?" And this was about, say, "Hey, have some patience."

And that race that he tells us, he said, one portion of that race, he said, "Now set aside anything that you know is your weakness, that temptation that doth so easily beset you." I served many years in South America, and many of the young men would come back and it would be the same thing and say, "I fell, preacher," and I, "Hey, praise God, you know?" Just, "Man, you know, any man falls down, just man, he stands back up seven times, you know, get back up, buddy, let us keep on going. God is still with you. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. He delighted in the way, though he fall, he shall not be cast down. The Lord upholds him in his hand." We do not have to keep falling, but to not keep falling, get rid of whatever sin that doth so easily beset you. Set it to the side, dear friend. What is in your race that is so distracting you from the things of God? Set it to the side. Do not do that. I remember one time in Argentina, a man came up, he said, "What is the matter? I fell again, I cannot do this." "Well, tell me what happened." "Man, I went home and I got drunk and I am just..." "Okay. Listen, buddy, walk me through it real quick." "I walked over, man, I opened the fridge. There was all this, this alcohol was there. I did not want to. I said no. All of a sudden I grabbed it. Next thing I knew I pulled it." I said, "Did you know that your brain controls your arm as well? This is an easy fix. This is one of the easier ones. Praise God." I said, "I have a good idea. How about we get rid of all that stuff out of the fridge and I think we are going to be all right." I mean, the sin that doth so easily beset you, whether it was this person, this girl, this guy, whether it was whatever it is, you know, you say, "It is what I look at on my phone at night." All right, how about we plug it in on the other side? We do not have to make this so spiritualized that we do not understand it. No, dear friend, if there is a sin that doth so easily beset you, put it to the side so that it does not obstruct your relationship, your communication with God.

By the way, you know a principle about communication. When there is good communication, there is a good relationship. When there is no communication, there is no relationship, right? Yet we say, "I love God." When was the last time you talked to Him through prayer? When was the last time you let Him talk to you through His Word? With no communication. So what is obstructing? Sin is what so it obstructs our area. When I was growing up, we had a, it was called a party line. So everybody on our road used to be on the same phone. So aggravating. And there were a couple, let us say sweet old ladies at the end of the road that were always on the phone. And so I would get on and you know, if my dad would find out, he would say, "Son, just wait until she is done." I am like, "Well, how am I supposed to know? I have got to pick it up." When you pick it up and someone say, "Is somebody else there?" "Oh, I am sorry." Put it up. Well, man,

I mean, I am a little persistent. There is a finite, I tell my mission is there a fine line between being annoying and being persistent. Learn to ride that line. And so I would pick up that I would pick up the phone. "Oh, my bad." I would wait about 30 more seconds. "Oh, my bad. You are still at, oh, looky there. Still gossiping. How about that?" "Hang on. What in the world? Just leave them alone until they are done." I am thinking, "Just let me have the phone. Look, you know, so and so is with him and she is doing this." "I get over yourselves and hang up the stupid phone." But, you know, whenever that party line, whenever there was static, whenever there was a person, you could not make your call. Listen, when there is sin between us and God, it obstructs our conversation. Get rid of it. He said, "You are in a race, dear friend." When do we look to Jesus? In the race every day of our lives. He said, "Put it down in that patience that we need to get through there."

But look at verse number three, jump down to verse number two. It told us to look to Jesus. Now, when are we to look to Jesus? Verse number one, in the race. Jump down to verse number three.

Hebrews 12:3

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself." Look at this next part, "lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

9. So not only are we to look to Jesus in the race of life, you know, the race is long, the race has it, but also we are to look to Jesus when we are tired.

You know, life has a way of wearing us down, does it not? I mean, just, man, it just, we get weary, we get tired. Here is what Galatians chapter 6, you remember that?

Galatians 6:9

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

"Let us not be weary." Same one here. "Let us not be weary in well doing when you are doing the right thing. Let us not be weary in well doing for we shall reap if we faint not." We stop now, we might not see the blessings of God. Let us be honest, not every Sunday morning do you feel like getting up and coming to church. Why is it that sometimes the best sleep is Sunday morning? Does anybody else have that issue? I am like, "Yeah, man, the demons of the sheep come upon me like, yeah, do not take me off." You are like, "No, I am like, no, get away from me, get thee hence." Man, it is so hard. You know, the devil does everything. Sometimes we just get tired. "I have been giving my tithes and offering for a long time. And Lord, it just seems like things are not easy." And we get tired. "Lord, I have been witnessing to my neighbors and my coworkers and friends, God, it just..." "Lord, I have been praying for my kids for so long and Lord, nothing is changing." "God, I have been..." What it, fill in the blanks, "and God, I am so tired." He said, "Do not be weary in well doing. You are going to reap if you faint not." We are going to, dear friends. He said, "Look, when am I looked at Jesus, even when you are tired and you want to get

down and you want to veg out, still look to the Lord, dear friend, still at that moment, look to the Lord." He said, "Because if not, well, you just get off track. You quit."

One of the greatest tools of the devil today is discouragement. So many Christians are walking around that they can do, they can witness, they can help, they can, they can speak, they can invite, they can do so many things. But because we are discouraged, now we do not do what God has called us to do. Now we are not serving Him. Now we are not being faithful to Him. And this is what he says. "Hey, when you are wearing, you are tired, it is going to happen. We all get tired." I remember in sports when I was younger and we would run and man, I mean, after we would run for a long time, you have got like cotton in your mouth, you know, it is like, man, your mouth is so dry. And, you know, you are looking and here is the coach. He is standing over there with the McDonald's Diet Coke. He said, "Run, boys." And I am thinking, "I am going to run over there, grab that, knock it over your head." Like, you know, I am not doing it. And I know I did not have the greatest attitude. I am still working on that. You know, it is one of those sanctification errands. But anyway, man, I would think, "Seriously, it is right for you, big boy, to drink your drink over there and yell at us to keep running. I am tired." You know, today you would probably get sued if you tell, "Run little buddy." You are like, "I mean, good night," but you know, "Keep running, keep running. I am tired." And sometimes in life we say, "Lord, I am tired."

1 Corinthians 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

First Corinthians 15:58, you remember what it says. "Finally, brother, be steadfast and unmovable." And this way he says, "always abounding, advancing, going forward, growing, moving in your life, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Listen to this. "For as much as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." Everything else in this world, it will be burnt up with the wooden hay and stubble. You know what I mean? Say, "This is the best restaurant," or whatever. Man, nothing wrong with any of that. But you know what? It just goes away. But what you do for the Lord, it matters for eternity. When do we look to Jesus? We know where we are not supposed to look to ourselves and to others and obstacles over our shoulder. We know all that. But where to look to Jesus? Okay, I got it. But when are we to look to Jesus? In the race, dear friend. And not only in the race, even when we are tired. Do not quit, dear friend.

Remember Psalms 27:14:

Psalms 27:14

14 Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

It says, "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage. And again, I say, wait." I think, "Lord, but I cannot wait any longer. Lord, I am tired. Lord, I cannot do it." Remember Isaiah chapter 40 and verse number 28 through 31, he said, "Then you will read, hey, even the young people, their

energy goes away. But there is that way on the Lord, that hope in the Lord, that stand the Lord, that wait for a time. Those that wait on the Lord, he shall be renewed strength of wings as eagles." You know that in Psalm 27. I mentioned you verse 14 to wait on the Lord, be of good courage. Again, I say wait. But verse number 13, what a wonderful portion. In fact, when I was in high school, I graduated from Christian school and I am very grateful. And many times we have chapel services in those chapel service. We would sing many little choruses. We would sing songs that were Bible verses and much memorization of the Bible for me came through singing because music just has a way of it sticks with you. I remember being in Argentina, being in the taxi and they would be playing this, you know, this music that I listened to as a kid. And I would start going like that. And I am like, "What am I doing?" Like, "What in the world? This is trash music, man." Like the words of it and like you just come back to mind like, "I did not listen to this in 15 years and here it comes up." And so I would ask the guy the equal to me. So no, "Did you wonder in English, do you understand English?" "No." "Like your music is in English." "Like, ah, see, yeah." "But, uh, all right. Do you understand what the words are saying?" "No." "But the music is in English." "Aha." "No." "Okay. So do you understand the messages saying?" "Like, no, my, I mean, who is that?" "I like it." I am like, "What do you understand?" "No, absolutely." I am like, "Well, you would turn the trash off. It is killing me here." You know, I am like guy crazy, but you do not mini music. He just does something for you. The book of Psalms is a Hebrew hymnal, you know, and they would sing. Well, anyway, verse 14, "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage. You cannot say wait on the Lord."

Psalm 27:13

13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Verse 13 said, "I had fainted unless I believe to see the goodness of the Lord to me." And you know, many times we feel like fainting. Do not give up, dear friend. Do not throw in the towel. Let us not quit now. Let us keep on going forward. Hey, praise God. I was, I got to be here about four years ago. Bob is always kind of allows me to be here and visit you all. And I realized I do not know everybody. What a wonderful building that God gave me. Now you have your own building. I walked around here. Barbara chose me and Lord, Lord, have mercy. It is like, I mean, it is like Corrie ten Boom's. You have got little rooms everywhere, dear friend. I mean, what in the world? I am like, you can, you know how many drugs you can stash here? No, I am just kidding. You have got rooms everywhere. I know I should not have. I am sorry. Usually it is my wife like, "Stop. Do not go anymore." Yeah. But you know, you know how you can all kinds of rooms. I better stop while I am at. Anyway, do you know? I mean, what a beautiful place. But listen, this is not the end that God has for you. This is on the road that God has for you. God might want to break out these walls. God might want to start two services. God might want to do it. Listen, but if we stop and faint and get weary now, we will never see the blessings of God. Do not quit, dear friend. God has so much more for us ahead. God, I heard about these young people that were saved in camp. Praise God. How many other camps? More kids will be saved. More people will get right. More people come to Jesus, but it will not happen if we stop now. Said "Looking unto Jesus," but when? In the race of life that jerks you up and down and all around, but when are we to look to Jesus? Even when we become weary.

Let me show you another one very quickly. Verse number four, look at the Bible says here.

Hebrews 12:4

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

"Ye have not yet resisted." Look at these verbs that he uses here. "You are not right. Resisted unto blood." Look at that. "Striving against sin." So we know where we are not supposed to look. We know when we are supposed to look, where to look, but now when we look to Jesus, we are looking at Him in the race every day. We are to look at Him when we are tired and it happens in life, but we are also to look to Him in the battle.

10. In the battle, he said resist.

There is blood. So you have got to strive. You have got to keep fighting. You have got to keep going forward. But what about the battle? You remember Ephesians chapter 6, he said, "Buddy, we are in a battle." This war that we are in, this is not country against country. This is armed against armed. This is not, you know, flying drones or shooting guns or missiles. This is not that kind of war.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

"The war in which we live, we do not fight against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rules of darkness, this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." My issue is with him, that guy or that girl, or my neighbors, or those people, or my issues with this paper, whatever it may be, financial or medical or whatever. That is not your real issue. We are in a spiritual war. And he says, as you are in that spiritual war, dear friend, do not give up. As you are in that spiritual war, keep looking to Jesus. He can help you. He can give you the energy. He can give you the strength. He can give you a strategy. He can give you exactly what you need, but keep fighting, dear friend. Keep striving. It is against blood. So many times we look and we think that our real problem is with a guy, with a girl, with a person. No, it is not. Our real problem is the devil is trying to mess the whole situation up so he can just get us off track. Do not do it, dear friend.

Let me show you one other very quickly. Look, if you would, you remember in 1 Peter chapter 5, he says.

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

"Our devil, be vigilant. Pay attention. Look, watch. Be vigilant for your adversary, your enemy, the devil." He says, "a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." You are not a little kitty cat, to pet, not a sweet little thing they will put in a cage and look at. Not something that you let curl up with you. The devil wants to devour. He wants to destroy you. The Lord came, "I came to

seek him to say," you know, the devil on the other side, John said, "the devil came to destroy. He wants to kill. He wants," and so we are in a battle, dear friends, and the battle, we do not fight against flesh and blood. We are fighting against, but let me show you one other, verse number five, verse number six, very quickly.

Hebrews 12:5-6

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

"And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children. My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint, when thou art rebuked of him, for whom the Lord loveth," you know this, it comes from probably Proverbs chapter 3, verse number 11 and 12, "for whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth, and scourgeth every one whom he receiveth." I know where I am not supposed to look. I am supposed to look to ourselves and to others, not to look at the big obstacles in my life, though they are there. Not supposed to look at my shoulder, although God has given me wonderful times and even hard times, but I am not to look back at that. I am supposed to look forward and the windshield that God has given me. We know where to look, look to Jesus, we know all that, but when do we look to Him? When? In the race every day. Even in the time that we are weary, we are discouraged, we are down, that we want to quit, that we want to faint, that we want to throw in the towel, say, "I have had enough, I have got it up to here."

11. Even look to Jesus in the discipline.

Even look to Jesus in the battle, when things are rough and we do not understand, and by the way, I think it is interesting, there are many things to learn when there are rough times in our life, but as we look down here in verse number five and verse number six, he says, "even in the discipline, he chastens, he disciplines those who he loves." Now this is kind of an awkward one, you know, like, what are we talking about? The discipline of the Lord. This is not a bad thing, it means he loves you so much, sometimes he allows things into your life. Now, not every problem that we have, it is not a devil in the sound system type thing, you know? Not every problem we have is like, "Oh, there is a demon in my wheel, that is why I have got a flat tire." No, you have got a flat tire, you knucklehead, because you ran over a nail, you know? Let us not overthink this one, you know? Sometimes the analytical guy, he thinks about a 122 situation, I am like, "Yep, pretty sure this is a lot more simple that a fellow like me can understand," you know, "ran over a nail," you know? Like, let us not be, you know. But anyway, sometimes things do happen because the Lord is showing us. And why do things happen? You know, you have always heard and sometimes it is the great, I do not know, the atheist excuse. Why do good things happen, why do bad things happen to good people? I have no idea. The Bible says in the book of Proverbs, "the rain falls on the just and the unjust." In other words, we are in a sinful world, it is not necessarily, it could be something that you did, it might not be something that you did.

The book of Psalm 119, verse number, allow me just to read it really quick in Psalm 119. Psalmist David after going through a hard time in his life and it says this in verse number 69, it has helped me throughout many times in my life. Psalm 119, maybe it is not there, I thought it was there. It used to be there. Let us see. And that is why another reason, oh here you are, I got her.

Psalm 119:69-71

69 The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.

70 Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law.

71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

"The proud have forgotten to lie against me." Look at this, verse number 70, verse number 67, "Before I was afflicted, before I had issues in my life, before I had tribulation, before I had hard times, before I was afflicted, I went astray." I went my own way. I did not care. It was like everything is good. You know, I have got money in my pocket. I am healthy. All things are good. And all of a sudden affliction came. What was it? I do not know. Maybe something that, you know, God used to wake them up. Maybe, I do not know, maybe sickness in the kids. Maybe a rough time. Maybe an issue. Whatever it was. But now he said, "Okay, affliction is done, but now, now that I have been through this, now have I kept your word." You know, maybe God brings something into your life, dear friend, because he is trying to call your attention. Maybe God is bringing something into your life because he loves you so much he does not want you to go astray. Verse number 71, "It is good for me. It is good for me that I have been afflicted." Now, I have never been in a problem saying like, "Oh yeah, baby, I love this one." Like, "What are you, some masochist? You enjoy suffering?" You know, like you weirdo. You know, like what in the world, you know, like, "Oh yeah." This is what he says. He has already been through it. And he said, "You know what? I was going astray." And he said, "You know what? That big issue that happened in my life, that problem that happened in life, it was good for me." "How in the world could you say this?" "That I might learn thy statutes." Now the book of Psalm 119, every one of the 150 verses outside of probably three of them, it uses a different pronoun for the word, for the Bible. He said, "statutes and principles, precepts and commandments and all of them." And he said this time, he said, "You know what? He was good for me. God woke me up."

Whatever issue I had, listen to your friend, and when you go through problems, do not think that God hates you. God loves you. We went through a rough, probably worst two years of my life. And I thought, "Oh Lord, I am, you know, I am moving, I am going back to Argentina." Like, you know, not to be offensive, but like, "Let the Americans do what the Americans want to do. I do not give a rip. I am going back to South America. That is my stomping ground. I understand those people. Everything is fine." Like what is going on? We come on the other side of it. And there was some time I thought, "Lord, I am going to die. God, I am supposed to be leading my family. I am supposed to be helping my kids. I am supposed to be leading my wife and God, I am supposed to be helping other people and students that you have given us and missionaries that you have given us, interns, guys that are in decisive stages. I am supposed to be helping all them. And Lord, I am having," you know, like, "Let me be like the psalmist says, I wish I was like a

dove. Like take wings and fly out of here. Like, I do not even want to be here. God, why?" And so many times your question, my question is, "God, why? God, why would this happen?" Sometimes, and by the way, God never says, you know, I mean, look at the book of Job, all these things happen to God. Excuse me, all these things that God allowed to happen to Job. And at the end of the book of Job, God says, "Pray for him," and God recuperates, God gives him all these blessings back. But you know, God never did explain. You and I know, because we read the narrative that the devil was having this argument with the Lord. He said, "Do whatever you want. Just do not kill him." You know, all this. But Job never knows what happened. God never, you know, God does not have to explain to you. Your job is not to understand, your job is to obey. And sometime in my humanity, I want to say, "Oh, God, tell me why." And Lord said, "I do not have to tell you why. I still said, follow me." "But Lord, it is rough." "I still said, look to me." "But God, I do not want to." "I still said, keep your eyes on me." Remember when you were in baseball or softball or, you know, T-ball, whatever it is, "Keep your eye on the ball. Keep your eye on the ball." "I do not want to." As soon as you look up there, they got strike. You know, "No, I was not ready." Like, "Well, get away." Keep your eye on the ball, dear friend. God allowed those things. And I look back now and there are so many things that happened and I would have never one of them happen. I pray they never do again. But God used those things for his good.

You know, when there is, I tell our students many times when you do not know what to do, remember what you are supposed to do. You do know, even though you do not know many things, what you do know is that God still loves you and all things work together for good. And God is still going to. Nothing takes God by surprise. He does not say, "Oh man, did not think about that one. Better watch out." I mean, he knows. So when you do not know what to do, remember what you are supposed to do. He said, "Even in the hard times," James chapter 1 talks about that joy and even the midst of the trials, he said, "I cannot be joyful." Do not be joyful in the trial that you have. Be joyful that God is going to use you and help you even through this trial looking unto Jesus.

There is a story about a man who he is walking on a path and as he is walking on the path, there is this ginormous boulder. The guy cannot go to one side. He cannot go to another. He has got to get right through there. And the guy, as he looks at this big old boulder, he looks up, God said, "What am I supposed to do now? This is impossible." And he starts pushing. "Yeah, goes inside. I cannot, God. No, Lord, you brought me all the way up here. And now you put this in my way. God, it is impossible. I cannot do it. Look at everything about it. God, it is impossible." Everybody knows, "God, why would you do this to me?" And the man complains and he finally sits down as he cries out to God, "Lord, I do not know." And Lord said, "I am the one who put that there." "No, you did not, God, because you were only good for my life." He said, "Well, maybe I know a better good than you think." And by the way, God sees from a different view than you and I do. We might see in the obstruction of the trees are in our way, but God sees from a 30,000 feet or, you know, whatever God sees way up there and he can see the whole thing. And by the way, as God told Abraham, you remember, he said, "Abraham, get thee hence to a land that I will show you." And he never gave the GPS coordinates to Abraham. You know, he never even said, "All right, I know it is not GPS days. Here you go. MapQuest has got it already. You

know, print that baby out." Or he did not say, "I am going to tell," he said, "Go to a place I will show you." If it was me, I would tell me now where I am going. Let me decide on this one. I need to know if I need to, you know, put extra stuff in the backpack. I mean, like if you are at the State Fair, you know, you have got something fried every three feet, you know, like, I mean, here is a funnel cake. It is fried. Here is a Twinkie. It is fried. Here is an Oreo. It is fried. Here is potato chips. We fried them again, you know, everything fried, you know, but Lord, just go. "But Lord, what if there is not food on the way? What if there is not water on the way?" "I will show you." Sometimes our job is just by faith, dear friend, keep pushing forward. Do not walk by sight. Faith does not walk by sight. We walk by faith in our Lord.

So this big old boulder is there and the man just been pushing and crying and the sun has been beating down upon him and he just cannot do it. He said, "God, but why? This is not of you. And I know it is not of you, God. It would not happen this way if it is from you, God. Lord, why?" The Lord said, "I am the one who put it there," "but why?" He said, "Look down at your arms. You see those muscles there? They would have never been there if you had not been pushing. Look to Me." You know, the whole time you were out crying and for a long time you had not talked to Me up that path. And now you are looking up to Me. And now every time there is an issue that happens, your dependence is upon Me. This worked out exactly how I wanted it to work. Dear friends, we have boulders in our path many times. Those giants that are there, God can slay them if he wants. God can knock them out. And sometimes our prayers, "Lord, remove this cup," and we always forget the "nevertheless, thy will be done." "Thy will be done." We just pray that first time, "God, get rid of it now where I am not going forward." And the Lord said, "No, you follow Me forward no matter what."

Dear friends, we are to look to Jesus. There are some places that we should not look. We know do not look to ourselves, think that you have got it. You know, everything is perfect. Look to Jesus. Do not look at others and begin to look to Jesus. Do not look at the big obstacles. Look to Jesus. Do not even look over your shoulder. Look to Jesus. We know what to look at, but when are we to look to Him, dear friend? We are to look to Him in the race of life, each and every one of us were on that race until God calls us out and takes us home. We are on that race. And dear friends, there are sometimes that we get weary. We get tired. We say, "God, I cannot do it," but do not forget, "I had fainted unless I believed to see the goodness of the Lord to me." He is good to you. When was the last time you counted your blessing and said, "God, you are good to me. Lord, please help me. I am going to get my eyes off of the, you know, 10% that is going bad. I am going to look at all the 90% that is going on. God, you are good to me." The Lord has been so good. Dear friend, even in the hard times of life, when the trials and the tribulations and temptation, everything, the afflictions happen in your life, look to Jesus. He does not let you go through that because he dislikes you. He lets you go through that because he loves you.

Remember 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 and 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verse 13, verse 17, all the way down to verse number 18, where he says that we are to, to, to exhort one another with these different things that he teaches about the second coming about the rapture, excuse me, about taking us out of here and the Trump at the, I mean, at that single moment, we will all be raptured away. And then he goes down and he said, "Do not weep at those who have no hope." We have

hope, dear friend, even through a death that would be horrible, even through a sickness, even through, through whatever it may be. We say, "God, I cannot." Lord says, "Yes, but I can." And so I ask you this morning, are you looking to Jesus? He has the answer for you. He has the answer for me. He has the answer for all of us. No excuses, dear friend. Look to Jesus.

Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. Father, we love you. Thank you. Oh, Lord, help us to look to you. God, such a simple. We all know this. We memorize it. We have sung about it. We, we have heard it. We have underlined it. We have highlighted. God, we all know in theory all about it. But God, there are so many times in our lives that we do not look to you. God, I pray that you would be these sweet people, Lord. What a wonderful group. God, what an amazing Lord. I thank you for this church. Lord, you know, the love I have for Bob for this church. God, how much has helped so many people. But God, on this road of life that we are all on, I know that my friends here and my, my brothers and my sisters, they get tired. They go through the battle and they want to give up God, but help us not be weary and well doing. Help us to keep looking to you. We love you, Lord, as Bob concludes the service and he continues on the certain Lord may your will be done in our lives. God, whatever you want, our lives are yours. They are not ours. May we not be selfish and may we not be arrogant and egotistic and think that we belong to ourselves and that we got here ourselves. God, it is all because of you. We love you and we need you. May we look to you every day of our lives in Jesus' precious name. Amen.