

I. Review

If you have your Bibles here this morning turn back to Psalms 31. If you will remember, just to refresh your mind here for a moment, we talked about our confidence in the Lord. How important that was, not only in the Lord, but also in His Word and how that leads to our total and complete trusting in Him in everything in life.

You hear me talk a lot about the defining moments in our life. Most people do not think about it, but life will define us. The times we face prove who we really are in the Lord, or in some cases, who we aren't, and how we react to the things of life. Somebody said one time, and I believe this is true, that the real definition of character is what we do when nobody sees and nobody knows. I think that is so true, and that in itself is a defining moment. This will simply come down to the level of confidence that we have in Him, and how we trust Him. **How we face the things in life will define us.**

I talked Thursday night about my goal, and my prayer is for all of you that get into that to really make the Bible work for you. That is really my prayer. I know the reality that not everybody will, but that is beside the point. My prayer is that God will give a substantial amount of people. When something new starts out, we are all excited about it. Volleyball starts next week, everybody is excited. Four weeks into it, you will be trying to find people to play on your team because people lost interest in it. It is the same way in softball. It just seems that it is part of our human nature, our makeup. I do not really care about volleyball or softball. But when it comes to the things of God and the Word of God, we should never lose the excitement of what God has given us in the greatest book the world has ever seen.

I was thrilled with everybody that showed up. We had another 50 some people online that went through it from all over the country. But it will be our defining moment: what we do six months from now with the Word of God. You will remember that when we started our time in Psalm 31 and we talked about confidence, I gave you the keys to that confidence. How that you start by bowing down your ear. 1 John 5:14, the confidence that I have that I know that he hears me.

14. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 1 John 5:14

We are going to have to go through things in life. There are going to be things in life that we have to face. My confidence to get me through it is the confidence that I have that He hears me. Once I talked about that, I laid out **three things that we need to do** that it talked about in that passage. First was a house of defense. We laid that out in a number of different aspects. The second was building that house of defense on a rock. And then the third one was taking that house of defense on the rock and then turning it into a fortress.

I told you that when you have those three things and you do that, we now have the confidence, and it says that **we can ask of God three specific things**. God will give us those things, and we have the confidence in it. The first one was that God would lead us. The second one, God would guide us. I showed you how there is a difference between leading and guiding. The third one was, "pull me out of the net." Through the leading and the guiding, God is showing us the dangers out there that are the pitfalls that we really need to be careful of. I have talked to you many times about the book of Acts. That is what the book of Acts does. The book of Acts shows you the pitfalls that are going to be thrown into the church age that you need to not fall into that trap. God will do that in life too. It is building our confidence level as we grow in Christ. That is my goal. That is what will happen as we continue to tackle these books of the Bible one at a time.

II. Psalms 31:14-24

Now today, we are going to finish up chapter 31, and we are going to pick it up where we left off last time in verse 14. We will read it down to the end of the chapter. So, let us read it together.

14. But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.

15. My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.

16. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake.

17. Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave.

18. Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

19. Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

20. Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

21. Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.

22. For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee.

23. O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

24. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

➤ The Reality of Our Hope in the Lord – Verse 24

Now, verse 24, I think, is one of the greatest verses anywhere in the Bible.

24. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

I want to talk to you today about the reality of our hope in the Lord. When you read something like this, where it talks about the hope in the Lord, it is not talking about, "Gee, I sure hope the Lord is going to come through for me." It is not talking about, "Well, I hope He does what He says." **In reality, it is telling us in the world that we live in today, the only hope we have is in Jesus Christ.** That is it. With the world and the situation that it is in, I want to talk to you today about the reality of that hope that we are supposed to have. My faith is built in that hope, and my faith is continuous on that hope, that He is my only hope.

I want to talk to you today about the reality of our going home to be with the Lord. The day Christ is going to come for His bride, the day that Christ is going to take us out of our trouble. We have looked at Psalms 31, Psalms 30. We have seen David crying out because of the adversity that he goes through. I have made it clear to you, every one of you, that just like David, you and I are going to go through the adversity of this life. **This life will never be your friend. This world will never be your friend. The only hope we have is the day that He comes to take you home, our deliverance.**

I know we know all the verses. I have given you the Day of Christ and explained it, the Day of Jesus Christ, how they are the Rapture versus the Day of the Lord. Most of you know and have 1 Corinthians chapter 15 marked out in your Bible. Most certainly, most of you probably have chapter 4 of 1 Thessalonians. Most of you probably, from times that we have been in the Bible together, have Song of Solomon chapter 2. Our times in the book of Revelation, you know that Revelation chapter 1, 2, and 3, the church age, but then chapter 4, He comes to take us home. We know all about that from the Bible's standpoint, what the Rapture is and what it really entails to God's coming. Two great days in the Bible. The Day of the Lord will be for the nation of Israel, but **the Day of Christ will be the day our hope comes to take us home.**

But I have got to be honest, I wonder sometimes in my own life how real all that is. I know human nature is such that when you get so much Bible, it is just kind of warehoused and clutters in different parts of your life that you never really do anything with it. I know that as human beings, we can learn all kinds of things about the Bible without ever really understanding those things about the Bible. We have the terms, we have the verses, but when we go home, when my hope, the only hope I have, when my hope comes down and translates me from this life to be with Him, what will it really be like? 1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us:

*9. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, **the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.** 1 Corinthians 2:9*

How many of us know that? How many of us could take a blank piece of paper and list down from the Word of God the things that we are looking for, the things that He has prepared for us? I mean, hey, I can look back through history and I can see how God has prepared everything for the nation of Israel on the Day of the Lord. Forget that. How about you and me?

Do you know what He has prepared for you? Do I understand all those things that He has prepared for me, the things that the eye cannot see? The things that God has laid out in that Word. This is why with where we are at today as a church, with where you are at today, I feel the urgency. I do not know how much longer we have. I do not know how much longer I have. I do not know how much longer you have.

Years ago, I heard B.R. Lakin, who was one of the greatest old Southern Baptists. He got out of the Southern Baptists and came over to the true Baptist Word of God family. He was a great preacher. I will never forget a message that he preached on the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a warrior. He was one of the last of the Philadelphian preachers. I sat there, and I was just a young guy. I had not been in the ministry yet. I sat there and I listened to every word that old soldier said, and I will never, never forget what he prayed before his message. It stuck with me for 50 plus years. He was praying before he started to preach. He said, "Dear Lord, let me preach today like it might be the last time that I ever preach." Then he said, "And oh, dear Lord, let these people hear the Word of God today like it might be the last time that they ever hear it." Then he said, "I want you to open up your Bibles, and I want to preach to you on the second coming of Christ." I thought to myself, he had an urgency. I think his urgency was that he was probably 80,85 years old when he preached that and he knew his time was at hand. His urgency was to get the word of God to as many people as he could. He wanted the people to listen like it would be the last thing they would ever hear.

I will be honest with you; I do not say it. I never bring it up. But every time I stand in a pulpit to preach, no matter where it is, in my heart I say to God, "God, let me preach this like it might be the last message I ever preach." Because it may be. The human mind trying to understand the day of days. You have heard me give it to you many times. Isaiah 55: 8-9, how His thoughts are not my thoughts and His ways are not my ways.

8. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

In my ability to see God's Day and understand what it will be like when all ye that hope in the Lord, when He comes to take us home. We all know that this life is full of headaches. Unfortunately, even to those of you who follow the Bible, love the leading and the guidance of the Lord, and love the Word of God, life will always be against you. This world will never be your friend.

❖ The Reality of the World's Worthlessness

Sometimes I have to look at God's people who at one time really loved the Lord, loved the Book, and did everything that God wanted them to do. But then something changed in their lives. Now they care nothing about God, nothing about the Bible, nothing about church, and totally have given themselves to the world. I look at that and I ask myself, "Why would you do that?" The world will never be your friend. Yet, I will be honest, in my 75 years of age, close to be 76, I have learned to look at these tough times in life that we are going to go through. I tend to look at

them a little differently than I used to. I tend to look at it a little differently probably than most of God's people do.

Now we have a very young church. I look here, one, two, three, maybe four or five, six older people. We have a young church. But I am going to tell you something, the older you get and the more you go through this life, the more you are going to see the real value of things, and yet the worthlessness of the things that we once held as valuable. If I have learned anything in all my years of walking through life, walking with the Lord, not walking with the Lord, I have learned that all that glitters is not gold, and life is just part of. Ephesians 4 verse 15:

*15. But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, even Christ: Ephesians 4:15*

The closer we get to that day when my hope comes for me, the more we should be like Him. As Ephesians 4:15 says, every day growing up, not unto Him, but into Him. I honestly think many of God's people fail to see how God will use the tough times in our lives. We all know that He uses tough times in our life to teach us the lessons of life. But sometimes we do not see that those tough times that God puts in our life by God's design will make us more homesick for heaven. That will make heaven and the things of God not just more real to us, that is not the problem, but more precious to us. That is the problem. It gives new meaning to Romans 8:28

28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

James chapter 4:8 says when tough times come, we are to draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh unto you. Simply understanding the world that we live in contrasts to the world that is coming

*8. **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.** Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. James 4:8*

❖ The Reality of the State of the Union in America

I laughed with amusement last week. I did not watch it, been through too many of them. I watched the President of the United States bring to the national forefront for the American people his State of the Union address. I did not watch it. I have learned that, you know, it was a long deal. I was right in the middle of episode four of Band of Brothers. I have learned that you do not have to listen to it. You just go on the news, and they will break it all down for you, and a lot quicker. Really, the reason I did not watch it is I already know the State of the Union. Every president, whether he is a Democrat or Republican, uses the State of the Union to put a smiley face on a disaster.

State of the Union: Millions of illegals have come across the border, have infested our country. Murderers, rapists, criminals killed innocent young people, and criminals killed innocent young girls and men. That is the State of the Union. **State of the Union:** When your kids go to school as little kids in grade school, and a teacher tries to convince them that the little girl is really a little boy, and a little boy really needs to be a little girl, and then puts the seeds in their head of

changing their gender without ever having to tell you what is going on. ***State of the Union:*** 350,000 people in this country died last year of the illegal fentanyl that came across the border. ***State of the Union:*** The woke crowd, same-sex marriages, evil being now called good and good now being called evil. Hatred for the nation of Israel, hatred for anybody who takes a stand. We have a war in Iraq. We have a war in our own country. The country is completely divided. ***State of the Union. You are kidding me, right?***

The one thing I did hear him say, here it is, here it is. When he went in to get that dictator, to dethrone him and take him out, (which I am all for) President Trump is up there and he says, "We need the Bible back. We need God back." And everybody says, "Amen." Then he tells the story of how that the lead pilot on that raid, and the raid was a success because his wife gave him a bottle of holy water. ***State of the Union. I know the State of the Union. State of the Union: America is like the Titanic that hit an iceberg and is going down by the bow fast, and the captain is on the PA system rearranging the deck chairs for the next event. State of the Union.***

I will be the first to admit it, honestly, sometimes it really gets confusing. If I did not have my Bible, if I did not have the truth, and this is why I have an urgency. You need to get into Genesis like it will be the last time you ever got into your Bible, because it may be. I need to teach it to you like it might be the last time that I ever teach it, because that well may be. Sometimes I just think that we as God's people, we do not get it. We know all the terms, we know all the things. **What do you look for in the day He comes back for you?** What is on your list? When you go to the internet and look at the stuff on eBay or Amazon or whatever, and you see something, you have the option to buy it now or put it on your wish list. As a child of God with our hope, it is coming for you in this world. What is on your wish list?

III. The Concept of Consistency & Contrast

I told you many times in your Bible, one of the greatest ways and the greatest tool that God will use is the concept of consistency and contrast. **Contrast will be two things that stand against each other to show you a truth.** Light versus darkness, right versus wrong. You have heard me preach sermons on funerals. I only have one sermon for funerals I preach because it is the only one that needs to be preached. It is in Ecclesiastes chapter 7 where it simply says, "*The day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth.*" It is contrast. Contrasts are an incredible tool. One of the great contrasting verses for my life, for now and what will be on that day that He comes for me, will be Romans 8:18.

18. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Romans 8:18

A contrast of the suffering and then a contrast of the glory. Now that is a contrast of right now; life in this day and a day that is coming. I personally think by God's design, things that I have learned through the tough times of life, God used them to teach me and draw me to Him. But I also think that God puts them in my life to contrast this rotten world that we live in compared to

the one that He has for me. I think sometimes we fall too much in love with this one and not enough in love with that one.

You will remember my father in the Lord, Mel Sabaka. He struggled for years and years about the call of God to go into the ministry. I have heard him tell this story a thousand times that he would go back and forth. God was calling him to preach, he wanted to do something else in life. I have heard him tell this story many times and I have never forgotten it, how that they had a little baby girl, that little baby girl died at birth. Years later, when he had been in the ministry 30, 40, 50 years, I have heard him tell that story how that he struggled to give God what God wanted. He said, "You know," he says, "When I took that little casket, put it down in the ground, suddenly Heaven became real to me. God had to take a flower out of this life and plant it up there." At that point he said, "God, I will do whatever you want me to do." Heaven becomes real.

When I view my life on planet Earth with all of its heartache, all of the disappointments. We all go through the rejection, the broken dreams, and then through my Bible, my walk with God, to contrast it all by my eternity with Him. Understanding that this life, my dear friend, is only temporary, but there is an eternal one that is coming. My fellowship, that contrast will get me through it all.

Abraham Lincoln, I think he was the 16th President of the United States. He is the one that coined the phrase, and he went through some dark times as president over the Civil War, and he is the one that coined the phrase, "This too shall pass." As I gave you a couple of weeks ago, it will pass for you and me too. But it all depends on how you look at His coming for you. It all depends on what you have on your wish list. Psalms 30:5 says:

5. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. Psalms 30:5

As I laid out in Matthew chapter 14, several months ago, no matter how dark the night, Jesus came walking on the water on the fourth watch in the morning. *All ye that hope in the Lord, He will strengthen you.*

Now when I look at Psalms 31, I see David historically, I see Israel obviously doctrinally, but I see me inspirationally. **I can see and completely understand now that this life is a veil of tears, and my hope only is in the Lord, not just to get me through today and tomorrow, but to come and take me home from here.**

➤ **My Trust in Him Because I know My Times are in Thy Hand (Verses 14-15)**

Verse 14 says, "*But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.*" Now there is the confidence level, my trust in Him. Then here comes, verse 15, here comes life on planet Earth, "*My times are in thy hand.*" I know most of you love the Lord and most of you love your Bible, you love going to church. But I must tell you today that no one will escape the world system. The world is unforgiving. The world is unyielding. The world is uncompromising. The world knows no forgiveness nor mercy. The day will come, and the question is, **when that day comes,**

are you in His hand? Your day, when you have to face it, your defining moment. The Bible calls it the evil day. Oh yes, your enemies will come and bring those that persecute you with them.

➤ **My Hope, the Shining of His Face (Verse 16)**

Look at verse 16, "*Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake.*" But in those dark times, God will make His face to shine upon you. There is my hope, the shining of His face. 2 Corinthians 4:6 says that this face is only found in the face of Jesus Christ.

*6. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give **the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.** 2 Corinthians 4:6*

This will be my walk and my relationship with Him.

➤ **Let Me Not Be Ashamed (Verse 17)**

Then as He continues on down here, He says in verse 17, and this is interesting, He says, "*Let me not be ashamed.*" For you and for me, that will be a reference to the judgment seat of Christ. The Bible says in Revelation 3:18

*18. I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and **that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;** and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. Revelation 3:18*

This nakedness is found in 2 Corinthians 5:3

3. If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 2 Corinthians 5:3

It says in verse 10 that we all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

10. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

Revelation 3:11 says that no man take thy crown. There are five crowns listed in the Bible.

11. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Revelation 3:11

One of the crowns 2 Timothy 4:8 is the easiest one for every one of us to get, and that is the crown looking for Him coming for you.

*8. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, **but unto all them also that love his appearing.** 2 Timothy 4:8*

Then He says in 2 John 1:8 watch to yourselves that you get a full reward.

8. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 2 John 1:8

Watch to yourself because when we fail to see in this life the contrast of what we have to go through contrasted to the coming life with Him, we lose our focus. When you lose your focus, you faint in your mind, and we get defeated, and we quit. Because of this world system and us not seeing it as my only hope, Jesus Christ, Him coming for me, we lose all that God has for us. Two different concepts, but we, like Israel, must endure it until the end. They do it to be saved. We do it to get a full reward!

➤ **God's Goodness and Presence (Verses 19-21)**

I look at verse 19. Here is the answer. Here is the answer to life on planet Earth.

19. Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

There it is, us trusting in Him, our confidence in Him before the sons of men.

20. Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

21. Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.

Verse 19 says, "*thy goodness which thou hast laid up for them.*" Notice it is a future context. You do not have it right now. The goodness is here in our relationship with Him, but there is a goodness coming. How great is that goodness?

Look at verse 20. God hiding me in the secret of His presence. Do you know what the secret of His presence is? That is a place in your heart and my heart where no man can go. That is Deuteronomy 29:29.

29. The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things of God that He gives to you. Now they belong to you and your children. My secret place, the promises through my walk with Him, the contrast. So what I have to experience in this life, what I have to see in this life, what I have to put up with in this life. The only way I get through is the secrets of His presence of Him showing me the contrast. All the secret things that He has for me. My wish list. What do you really know, what are you really looking for? Oh, come on. **What is on your wish list? When He comes for you.**

He says in verse 20, He keeps me in the midst of this old world secretly in a pavilion. That pavilion is found in Colossians 3:3.

3. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3

Right now, we are dead to the world, but my life is hidden in Christ. I may be in this world, but the Bible says in Philippians 3:20, my citizenship is in heaven, I am seated in heavenly places by living in this world in the presence of Jesus Christ but seated in that pavilion with Him

20. For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Philippians 3:20

Look at verse 21. "*His kindness in a strong city.*" A couple of weeks ago, there is Psalms 31, my house of defense. There is my building it on a rock, and there is my turning it into a fortress. My contrast of what this world is to me and the glory of that day when my Jesus comes for me.

IV. My Wish List for Heaven

In the time I have left, and I have plenty of it, I am going to give you nine things that are on my wish list. I want to give you nine things that are my reality check. I know, you tend to think because I am the pastor, and I know and teach the Bible, that I seem to not have any problems in life. You are wrong. I have the same clay feet that you have. I have the same problems and the same fears and anxieties and heartaches that you have. The difference between me and some of you is I have a reality check. I have a wish list. I have a reality check of the day I am looking forward to that will get me through this veil of tears, and it will be my focus in life.

I learned a great lesson. I did not know it at the time. Years later, when I got into the Bible, God used a lot of things in my early life to show me things that I did not see at the time. I am from Ohio, and my dad was an avid hunter. I grew up with guns, hunting, and all those things. As a young kid, I could not wait to go rabbit hunting with my dad. Every November 15, rabbit season came in and my dad would go, he would come back with five or six rabbits. I was too little to go, but when I finally turned about 12 years old, maybe 13, dad took me rabbit hunting with him. I had passed the test. That Christmas I got my first shotgun. It was a 20-gauge Winchester Model 37, the youth model. I will never forget. I got it on Christmas Day. I bugged my dad, bugged my dad, bugged my dad. It was not really wintertime yet back then at that point in time. So, my dad says, "Okay." I also got a couple of boxes of 20-gauge shells. So, we went down to the dump. My dad found some old wheels; my dad was a genius. He would throw that wheel down, and the wheel would hit and roll like a rabbit running, and "Bam" I would shoot at it. He would throw cans up, and "Bam" I would shoot at them. Now I am just a little guy and on the end of that shotgun was a recoil pad that said Winchester. I looked at my arm after 25 rounds, it was black and blue, but you could clearly see Winchester. That thing kicked the snot out of me.

So next weekend we went rabbit hunting. Early morning, my mom packed peanut butter sandwiches in a little bag with an apple for lunch. I remember that old gray '51 Chevy. So, we are out there, I put my shell in there. I have my little vest on and my little red hat. That is the cutest thing you ever saw in your life. We are walking down through the field, kicking all the clumps. I kicked this brush pile. Guess what? The biggest rabbit you ever saw in your life shot down that thing. Missed him the first time, put another one in, rolled that sucker right over like that, ran up and got that rabbit. You know what? I did not even feel the recoil. Do you know what I learned

from that? The recoils of the kicks of life will hurt a lot more when you are not focused on trying to hit something. You know what is wrong with most of God's people? Life kicks you sideways because you are not focused on anything to take the kick out of it. When your vision is to serve God and do what God wants you to do, sure the world is going to kick. Yeah, sure the world is going to hit you. You are not going to feel it because of the contrast. Whatever the world will do to you to kick you, knock you down, will never compare to what God will do in contrast to pick you up. The quicker you learn that the better off you are going to be.

1.) To See the King in His Beauty

Now number one for me, when I am finally home, I will see Him sitting on the throne, the King in His beauty. Isaiah saw, and he says:

*17. Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.
Isaiah 33:17*

Right now, for me, the land is afar off, and I have to rely on my Bible. I have to rely on praying, and I have to rely on seeing Him who was invisible. Back in Isaiah 6 verses 1 through 5. Isaiah, when he opened up the book and God was going to show him, he said this:

1. In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

2. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

3. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

4. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

5. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips: and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

That is me right now. When I look in the Bible and I see who He is and I see all He is, when I see Him and everything that He is, it shows me who I really am, "*Woe is me, for I am undone.*" Everything Isaiah wrote in the rest of Isaiah through Israel's time of trouble is a contrast to what he saw when he saw God coming to the nation of Israel, the Lord sitting high and lifted up on His throne. Hey, for 50-plus years I have walked with Him, tried to, prayed to Him, fellowship with Him. Probably read His Bible through close to a hundred times, studied every aspect of His plan down through history that I could, outlined every verse in the Bible that I could. But I still come up short. **Number one on my wish list, in that Day, it will all come together, and I will see Him on that throne, and I too, finally will see the King in His beauty.**

2.) First-Hand, Eye-to-Eye Encounter with the One Who Died for Me

You know what the second thing on my wish list is? A first-hand, eye-to-eye encounter with the One who died for me. Not only will I see Him on His throne and all of His glory, but our eyes will meet, and I will finally eye-to-eye encounter the one who died for me. In my life, I have a lot of problems just like anybody else. I struggle with things. But I have told you this before, one of the things that I have never struggled with and I have no problem with is ingratitude. In my life, God has put a lot of people who have helped me in life, and I never forget what people do for me. Most of God's people, when they look at somebody in their life, their pastor, Christian friends, their standard statement is, "Don't tell me what you did for me yesterday. Tell me what you are going to do for me today."

There were men who showed me kindness. There were men who showed me patience. There were men who helped me grow, who encouraged me, admonished me, corrected me. There were men who saw in me what I could not see in myself. No one will ever take the place of Mel and Jean Sabaka, who basically adopted me after my dad went home to be with the Lord. Herb Koonce who I have had him out here for you to hear him preach. He worked with me and helped me so much. Harold Henniger went home to be with the Lord. He was the pastor of Canton Baptist Temple, but he was good to me. Bob Johnson, who was the music director, he was good to me. He helped me. I could never have enough words for Dr. Ruckman and all that he taught me about the Bible. When I first came to Kansas City, I worked with Truman Dollar. Truman Dollar taught me so much about the ministry. None of those people were perfect. They all had feet of clay. But God used them in my growth, and I will always be grateful for them. But oh, **I want to tell you, when I get home to heaven, I want to see the one who made it all possible. I want to see the one who died for me to make it all possible.** Oh, I know 1 Corinthians 13:12 says right now we look through a glass darkly, but then face to face.

12. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 1 Corinthians 13:12

When I think of that, when that is number two on my wish list, how could I ever have ingratitude toward Him? How could I ever give up and quit after all He has done for me? **Never let this world take from you what God has given you.**

3.) Realization of the Eternal Presence of God

Number three of my wish list. The day I get home to heaven, and it will hit me, the actual realization of an eternal presence of a being who has no beginning or end. God who is omnipresent. God who is omniscient. God who is omnipotent. It is hard as human beings, and we are so fragile and so easily forget God and who He is. I have talked with folks many, many times who will tell me that they will not trust Christ because they cannot figure God out. How could He be? Where did He start? Where was His beginning? How does He live? How long? What is all this stuff? It is simply the finite mind trying to figure out an infinite God. You are not going to do that. I learned a long time ago, you are never going to figure God out, but you do have to faith Him out. You trust Him by the light that He gives you. Right now, I have that mind in a Book, and I am told in Philippians 2:

5. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Philippians 2:5

I am told to let this mind be in me, which is also in Christ Jesus. But then in His presence, I will be His mind, and I will know everything that He knows.

4.) A Glorified Body That Cannot Sin

The fourth thing on my wish list, as if it could get any better. I will have a glorified body that cannot sin. You know what heaven is to me? That is a bunch of things. But first and foremost, heaven is a place where everything that I say, everything that I think, and everything I do, and every thought I have, will only please the Lord. Every word. Right now, if you wanted to quantify my life, probably yours too, it would be Psalms 119:136. What does it say?

136. Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law. Psalms 119:136

I fail Him in so many ways. I fail Him so many times. The book of Romans teaches two great truths about my struggle with my flesh in this life. It talks about in Romans chapter 7 that my flesh is like a dead man. Before salvation, that dead flesh is stuck to my soul. At the time of salvation, Colossians chapter 2, you know the process, God separates the dead man from the living man, my soul. But now I have to live life on planet Earth, and here is the problem. From that point on, as I walk through this life, I am not stuck to a dead man any longer, but I am stuck with a dead man. Paul said it in Romans 7, he said the things that I should do, I don't do. The things that I know that are wrong, those are the things that I do. Then he says, O wretched man that I am who shall deliver me from the body of this death? Next verse, Jesus Christ, my hope! My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. Oh, yeah!

5.) Freedom from the Earthly Things of This Life

My fifth thing on my wish list. I think of this. No more will I need to eat, to sleep, to drink, to worry, to work, no anxiety, no tears ever again. Those earthly things of this life as a human being will all be gone now. Yet I can enjoy eating if I want to or not. I can choose. You see, my body will not control me any longer. I will have a supernatural body that does not need replenishment to keep on going. Job 33:14-16 tells us why sleep is important in this human life, our frailty and what God does to you at night while you sleep. I will not need it then.

14. For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not.

15. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;

16. Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, Job 33:14-16

My work now will be the eternal work of God throughout God's second heaven. Now I will be the mediator between man and God. Every glorious sunrise, every glorious sunset. Not a care in this world. Forever I will never be out of the presence of Almighty God in my fellowship with Him. To me, that is heaven.

6.) No More Pain or Death

The sixth thing on my wish list. I think of this a lot too. The day He comes for me, takes me out of this world, there will be no more pain. There will be no more death. I have enjoyed my 50 plus years in the ministry, but I will be first to tell you, I preach too many funerals. I have had to say goodbye to too many people that I loved. That day when He comes for me, when He breaks through the morning, there will be no more funerals. No more funeral homes. No more goodbyes. No more caskets. No more urns for ashes. But as 1 Thessalonians 4 tells us when that day comes and that day star breaks and rises in my heart we will meet our loved ones in the air, and the Bible says together. We meet them together, and then together we go to be with the Lord.

16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

You see, He understands the heartache and the grief when you lose someone you love. So He stands back, has the Rapture, it allows you to meet your family in the air, and then hand in hand with your loved ones, go see the one who made it all possible. *All ye take strength that have hope in the Lord.*

7.) Absolute Perfect Joy

Seventh thing on my wish list. Now I will have absolute perfect joy. It will not be tainted by selfishness, my depravity, greed, or envy. You know we get a small glimpse of this in life. When we had our Bible conference, everybody went home from every service filled up with joy. I know many of you talked to me Thursday night after a Bible study, that intense time we had in the Word of God together fills you with joy. I know when you come to church on Sunday morning and God does something in your life and you get the blessing out of it, you will leave here in a state of joy. But then comes Monday morning. Then comes Sunday afternoon. Then comes I-70 and the world robs you of that joy. Oh, not in that day. Nobody and nothing will ever steal that joy again. My joy will now fill all of God's eternity, and my joy will finally be full.

8.) A Glorified Body Like Christ's

The eighth thing on my wish list is that I will have His body. I am going to be Him. That is why right now, I am called the body of Christ. It is going to be a glorified body. I am going to be a joint heir with Jesus Christ. I am going to be the aristocracy of heaven with Christ, with God. I can, in that day, like Him, become invisible or visible at will because I am one with Him. I can do everything He did. I can pass through solid objects just like He did. I can be across God's expanse of the second heaven in a split millisecond. I will tell you something else the older you get, the more you wait for that new body. The best thing about heaven for me, no Tylenol, no Advil. It is tough getting up in the morning sometimes. It is just tough getting up. The older you get, your body tries to tell you, "I am tired of this world." I have the mind of a 30-year-old. I am just waiting for my body to catch up to the mind.

But there will be one main difference between me and Him in that day, and we do not want to forget this. This makes it even more why I love Him. Yes, I will have His exact body. I will be the son of God. I will finally in all shape or form be the body of Christ. But the difference is that His body will still bear the nail holes in His hand and His feet, and the spear hole in His side. But I will not. I will stand there and look at Him and my glorified body, perfect like Him, be able to do everything, be the son of God. But I will never forget that it was those five wounds on His body that gave me the glory. That will be a special day. I am made perfect through His death. That will be my eternal reminder.

9.) Eternal Fellowship with God throughout Eternity

The last thing, number nine. Then most of all, now that I am Christ, as Christ did in His earthly ministry, now so do I. I will have the eternal fellowship with God throughout eternity. It will be me and Him, just like at the first coming of Christ, it was Him and Jesus, forever. Never to break or lose that fellowship with God. Ephesians 2:4-7 tells us:

4. *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*
5. *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*
6. *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*
Why?
7. *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2: -7*

Verse 7. That in the ages to come, that in the ages to come, **that in the ages to come** he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace and his kindness to us through Jesus Christ. And as the ages roll, as the time goes on, and then time ceases, we move into eternity. You see, right now I am stuck here on this planet, but I am seated in heavenly places. But when that day dawns through the darkness, as the ages roll, we will be together forever. Never to be separated again because now I will be the complete son of God.

I am always careful saying this because you have people that do not listen and get all whacked out and messed up. But let me just tell you this, I will say it now. Most of you are probably saved here this morning, but the thing that you do not realize, you are only half saved. Yeah, you are only half saved. Your soul is redeemed and you are seated in heavenly places, but you still got that dead man you are hanging out with. That dead man will rob you of your joy, rob you of your fellowship, rob you of everything. **But when He comes back and I get that glorified body, I now am complete in Him, body, soul, and spirit, never to lose it again.**

V. Summary

Now these nine things are on my wish list, and these are the things that will get you through the tough times by contrast, understanding He is my hope. What the world will do to you and what God has for you. I heard the joke how that women always got to know everything. That is why the biggest gossippers at a church are women, not this church, but other churches. I don't know about that, but I do know this: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, all the people that rejected Christ, there was never one woman ever that rejected Christ in the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Personally, I think that it is because He was the example of what a real man should be in a woman's life. But I also think that they knew hanging out with Him, they would know everything.

Now stay with me. You are all saved this morning. You are all the body of Christ, but what else are you? You are the bride of Christ. You know back in Genesis when Eliezer went to get a bride for Isaac and he found Rebekah. If you read that story, it is an incredible story not only about the principles of how to find a spouse, but when you read that story, you will find that once he finds her, he is taking her back to meet Isaac. She never met Isaac before. That is a picture of Eliezer, the Holy Spirit of God, the day you got saved, and that Holy Spirit takes you on a journey to meet your Isaac. You know what it says? All along the trip she wanted to know what manner of man she was going to meet. You are the bride. I am the bride. We are the woman. We ought to want to know everything there is to know about Him and Heaven.

In Acts chapter 1, He resurrected, and He left me and went back to heaven. He left me to finish the work that He started. When He comes back for me, He will take me up to Heaven with Him, and now together we will finish the work together. As the ages roll, I will never be separated from the Son of God again. The last thing He says in verse 24, "*He shall strengthen our hearts, all ye that hope in the Lord.*"

Some golden daybreak Jesus will come.
Some golden daybreak, my work now done.
He will shout the victory, break through the blue.
Some golden daybreak, He's coming for you.
Some golden daybreak Jesus will come.
Some golden daybreak, my battles all won.
Heartaches all ended, school days all through.
Some golden morning, just Jesus and you.

He is coming for you. **What is on your wish list? What do you look for every day of your life to get you through this old world?** Sing with me.

What a day that will be.
When my Jesus I shall see.
When I look upon His face.
The One who saved me by His grace.
And forever I shall be with the One who died for me.
What a day, oh glorious day that shall be.