

Prophecy Update
He Will Give Calm To Me Until He Comes For Me
Pastor JD

DAVID: Why don't we all pray? Lord, we just lift up this time to You, Lord, thanking You for Your blessings. Thank You for being in all of our hearts, Lord. And may we continue to keep our hearts and minds always focused on You, Lord. With everything happening in the world, Lord, we know the time is coming, Lord, when You come to take us home.

And again, we just thank You for everything You do, Lord. Thank You for always providing for our families, taking care of all of us. We ask that You bless this time and this word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. Good morning. Do you want to stand? You might be sitting for a while, so I'd...

I want to welcome you. Those of you online that are joining us, I want to welcome you as well. And I want to, before we start, just say that Kellie and I cannot thank all of you enough for your outpouring of love and support, and especially for all of your prayers. As Pastor Leitu and Pastor Mac had shared the prayer requests, those answered prayers became praise reports. Because God, as only He can, saw my wife through two major emergency spinal cord surgeries where the cancer had spread to.

Now, when I say this, I hope you know I mean this. It was truly, absolutely because of all of the prayers that we were able to bring her home from the hospital on Friday. That should have never happened. Praise the Lord!

[Applause]

Truth be made known, she shouldn't even be alive, but she is. She shouldn't be able to walk, but she does with a walker for now. But God heard from on high and hearkened unto the voice of yours and our cry in ways that we could have never imagined. So I would just humbly ask that you please continue to pray for my bride, specifically for her pain, her recovery, and infinitely more importantly, a healing miracle from God in His unfailing love. Would you do that for us? Thank you.

You can be seated. Well, we're going to continue our verse-by-verse study through the *Book of Revelation*, which is what we do for Second Service. It's our Bible study the sermon if you prefer. And I want to get right into it because this is wow, man. Just wow.

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Our text is *Chapter 21* beginning in *verse 4*. And we'll read through to *verse 8*. If you're able, I know I just — you're probably having like Catholic flashback or something. I probably should have — well, it's been a rough two weeks. I just appreciate your grace. You know, you don't have to, but if you want to, you can stand for the reading of God's word. Oh, look at you. If you're seated, that's fine too.

Verse 4, the Apostle John, by the Holy Spirit, writes, **“He [Speaking of Jesus] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. For the old order of things has passed away. [Is dead and gone]**

[Verse 5] He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then He said, “Write this down, [Where's my pen?] for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: **[Verse 6] [I love this] “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. [Verse 7] He who overcomes will inherit all this. And I will be his God, and he will be My son.**

But [Verse 8] the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic, arts [Sorcery, pharmacopeia] [In the Greek pharmaceutical, witchcraft, potion] the idolaters and all liars— they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

I kind of wish it ended at *verse 7*, but it doesn't. But we'll see why in a moment. Would you join me in prayer? We'll ask God to bless our time in His word.

Father, we're so thankful to You for Your word. For some of us, it's all we have to hang on to for dear life because it's the word of life. It's the bread of life. It's the water of life. So, Lord, we just read a pretty — I don't even have the word to describe it — passage of Scripture that is just intense, incredible. So, Lord, we're — we're going to need the Holy Spirit to give us the understanding because not a one of us that's here or even online wants our time to be a waste of time. We want from You what You have for us.

Lord, one more thing I want to ask. Please do not allow the enemy to bring distractions into anyone's mind. Lord, please, by the Holy Spirit, enable us, empower us to focus, to

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concentrate, so we can give Your undivided attention. Because I believe that You're going to speak powerfully today and for some, maybe even very personally, today. So will You do that for us, Lord? We're asking You, in Jesus' name. Amen and amen.

Thank you so much. You can be seated now. I won't make you stand up again for a couple hours.

So what I want to talk with you about today is why it is that God would inspire the Apostle John to write this so that well-nigh 2000 years later, we would have this in our Bibles. We know all scripture is God breathed and this for a reason. So let's answer this. The answer is in the title of the sermon, 'If I Truly Knew What I Have To Look Forward To.'

Oh, man. That's why we have this in our Bibles, you know. The Lord wants us to know what awaits us to make what we go through easier to get through, knowing what we have to look forward to. Because He knows that it can change everything here and now. Today. I mean, this changes everything. We just read the word of God, God's word to us. He can't go back on His word. This is His word.

He's given us His word that every tear He's going to wipe from my eyes. No more dying there. No more crying there. Man, how soon can I go there? You will. I have to do this. You'll forgive me. But it's important. Because sadly, many a Christian — I'm going to say "professing." I'm going to qualify it — "professing" Christian. That just means that I get less emails.

So "professing" Christian has allowed the enemy to steal their hope, kill their joy, and destroy their faith. And you know what? Today's text is why. You think Satan wants us reading this, studying this, knowing this? Absolutely not.

It's evidenced by how many believers, especially pastors, I'm sorry to say, stay as far away from the only book in the entire Bible that promises a blessing to those who read it, hear it, and take it to heart. What's the most unread, misunderstood if read book in the Bible? The *Book of Revelation*. Nobody touches it with a ten-foot poll. Is that how the saying goes?

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Oh, it's so apocalyptic. Yeah. Apokálypsis in the Greek. You know what that word means? Unveiling, revealing, revelation. Oh, no, it's really kind of scary and symbolic, and it's a hard book to understand. You know, actually, it's a very easy to understand.

I heard a pastor say once — this is going to sound so self-serving, so I'll ask for your forgiveness in advance. I heard a pastor say once that if a pastor loves his congregation, he'll teach them the *Book of Revelation*. I love you, man. (Chuckles) No. For real. That's not just cliche.

Why would he say that? Because it's true. I do love you. I actually even like you too. Isn't it interesting that "like" packs more punch than "love" in the day in which we live? But I love you enough, and I love the Lord so much that I want to feed you, His sheep. I don't want you leaving here hungry, unfed. As Jesus would say to Peter when he restored Peter, "**Do you love Me? Feed My sheep.**"

I love you, Lord. Man, I'm not just going to feed your sheep. They're going to be so stuffed. I'm going to have like, buffet, and they're going to be so full they can't even look at a restaurant. But why would I do that? Because I love you. I mean, think about it. Can I flip it around? If I didn't love you, it's like pfft! That's a word actually. I made that up in the JDV. Pfft!! (Mumbling unconcerned) I wouldn't bother.

But no, I love you enough to speak the truth in love because of love. And I don't — I'm gonna give an account to God. And it's going to be a much stricter account that I'll be held to, James said. And I want to hear those words, like you, "**Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy prepared for you.**"

Good job. You kept My word. You didn't deny My name, as He would say to the Church of Philadelphia, inferring that the others had. An apt description of the last days church today.

Why would I want to — I'm going to try a different approach since it doesn't seem like the last ones worked very well. What if I just robbed you of this passage we just read? I kept it from you, kept you in the dark. I mean, we've just read what is arguably amongst one of the most joyous, wondrous promises, unbreakable promises in the entirety of the pages of Holy Writ. And I don't want to tell you about it because I'm too scared of the *Book of Revelation*?

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Well, you announce you're going to teach through the *Book of Revelation*, they're going to go to another church. I want them to come back. So I'm going to have cotton candy on Sunday. Did you just hear what I said a moment ago about the only book in the Bible that promises a blessing to those who read it, hear it, and take it to heart?

Wouldn't you think that knowing that — maybe they don't — but if I have a promise, unbreakable promise, and God's word that there will be a blessing for me in this book if I just read it, hear it, take it in, and take it to heart, why wouldn't I? I'm sorry. I'm yelling. I'm sorry. I'm not mad. I might be a little bit. I mean, it's a righteous anger, of course; I'm the pastor. So all this has to be sanctified, righteous anger.

I'm not angry at you, of course; I'm not angry at anyone. I'm just angry at what the enemy has gotten away with for too long. This is my — I was thinking about this yesterday. It's all a blur now, but I think this might be my fifth time teaching through the *Book of Revelation*. It started on the mainland, of course, over many years. It's actually my favorite book in the Bible. Now, when we're in a different book, I'm going to say that book's my favorite book in the Bible. But for now, this is my fifth.

No, but for this reason. The blessing that's promised in *Revelation 1:3* — by the way, for those of you that want to reference it or underline it, that blessing, this promise: only book in the Bible. Sixty-six books. Only book. Only book in the Bible. No other book promises a blessing but the *Book of Revelation*.

I say that to say this. I hope with all my heart that all of us, myself included, will take this promised blessing to heart, and do so by way of four truths in our text that are, if you think about it, too unbelievable to be believable. But you better believe it. Because God's word is absolutely trustworthy and true. God said it. That settles it.

I know this is far out, man. That's the '70s, isn't it? What do you guys say now? I don't want to know. You guys, come up with some weird stuff. I'll never forget when my son came home — he was still in high school time — and he said, "Wow, Baba that's sick." I'm like, "What? Who's sick?" He says, "No. Sick's a good thing" I'm like, "Sick's a good thing?" So if you say something's sick, it's good? Man, Jesus is coming back when sick is good.

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I mean, so I actually made a further inquiry. What about “cool”? Because is “cool” still cool? Because, you know, “cool.” That's — I'm talk — you younger people, you just leave us all alone for a moment. This is back in our day. Back when “cool” was cool. And I got the right answer. Answer: “Cool” will always be cool. Cool.

[Laughter]

We're going to go through these four truths, four promises, four blessings if you prefer, just in the text, this portion that we have before us today that will bless you today. And I would venture to say that there are some, maybe many, that need a word from God today because you're discouraged. You're struggling, hurting, and you're buss up, beat down, weary.

And God wants to lift you up. And He wants to give you a preview of what's in store for you to help you through what you're going through because of what you have to look forward to. What's the first one I have to look forward to? Oh my goodness.

Verse 4. Are you kidding me? I'll never cry or ever die. Let me say it again. I'll never cry or ever die. That alone. Sign me up. Where do I sign? No need to sign. He signed it in His blood. Okay, so here, John, by the Spirit, writes that the Lord will wipe *[Listen]* every tear from my eyes. You know what the implication of this is? There's going to be tears streaming down my face. And here's why.

Because there will be no more death, no more mourning. I did a Celebration of Life, a memorial service today. I've done so many. I've literally lost count. And I don't ever want to do another one ever again. And I won't. I did my own dad's service, my mom service, my own daughter's service, my mother-in-law, father-in-law, and the countless many over the many years that went home to be with the Lord.

And I got this promise that blesses my heart beyond description. That I'm never going to cry again. I'm a crier. I'm not as bad as Kaponi. Oh, don't tell him that. He's not here today. He's got me beat. I'll let him have it. But I am a crier. But you know what? Jesus cried. Paul, the Apostle Paul, he cried like a man.

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You know guys — we were taught growing up. “Big boys don't cry.” That's horrible. It's horrible. I'm learning some things about grief. The harder you grieve, the sooner and the better you heal. You know that oxymoron? You've heard it. “I just had a good cry.”

Wait, a good cry? It kind of sounds like jumbo shrimp or Microsoft works. I always have to throw that one in there. It's an oxymoron. It's a paradox. A good cry? Yeah. I think I know what you're talking about, but what's good about a cry? Oh, you feel so good after a cry. You know why? Because God, fearfully and wonderfully made us to cry in order to release the stress, the pressure, the grief, the built-up toxins. And they come out in the tears. And that's why you feel so good after you cry.

True story. After our daughter died, I'd be on the road. Just out of nowhere. H3. I'm driving. And all of a sudden, just boom! I'm weeping convulsively. I can't see. I pull over to the side of the road. And I'm just weeping and convulsing and crying, and wow, where did this come from? I don't know where. And then after I was done, I felt so good. I'm like, Lord, can we do that again?

You know the people who stuff it in, keep it in or turn to the bottle of alcohol or the bottle of pills? Oh, it'll come back. Rear its ugly head, as they say, with a vengeance. Life is grief. It is said of Jesus that he was well-acquainted with sorrow and grief. And Jesus wept. That's the one verse in the Bible you can say you have memorized. It's only two words in John's Gospel. **“Jesus wept.”** I

memorized Scripture. Jesus wept? Yeah. That wasn't the first, nor would it be the last time. He wept over Jerusalem. He wept over Martha and Mary's unbelief before He resurrected their brother from the dead. So are getting this?

Are you taking this to heart? I hope you are. Because if you're not, you're getting robbed, man. You're getting robbed blind. Is that how they say that? I need to just stay in my lane probably on these things. But notice, no more tears, no more death, no more mourning, no more crying. I'll take it. No more pain. For real?

No. That's too good to be true. Wait. I don't like that. Because when someone says that's too good to be true, then they're in effect saying that God is not good, and God is not true.

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And God is good, and God is true. And so if you believe it's too good to be true, I say to you, God is too good, and God is too true. Trustworthy and true. I'm getting ahead of myself. Okay, can we ask why? We're told why. So let's ask why.

Answer: It. Is. Done. Finito. Is that right? Is that the way you...? It's done. Can I say it like this? Out with the old. In with the new. Behold, I will make all things new. The old is done. The old is dead. The old is gone. We're in the new heavens and the new earth for all of eternity in glorified bodies.

I mean, that alone right there. This body's got miles on it. I put in an order for — I don't know — is that weird? You know because there's some things that I didn't get first go around and lost along the way. Like hair. I think when they were handing out shoulders, I was just not — I was just absent that day or something. I don't know. So I'm putting in my order. I don't know what my glorified — but I'm thinking it's going to be cool because "cool" is still cool. Yeah.

Okay, so what's your point, Pastor? Here's my point. Everything and everyone who caused said death, mourning, crying, and pain all because of sin, which causes death is gone
(Shouting)

Sorry if I woke somebody up; I didn't mean to startle you. No, it's gone. (High-pitched squeal) You have to say it just like that too. It's gone. Don't look for it. You won't find it. It's gone. All the sources of the crying, the weeping, the mourning, the pain, the suffering, the death gone! (Chuckling)

It's a gift. I make babies cry. Toddlers: They don't run to me. They run away from me. It's a gift. I'm sorry, by the way. We do have the room. You can still.... Yeah. It's actually the best seat in the house right there. You can't go in there, though, unless you're a nursing mommy. So don't get any ideas. Are you picking up what I'm laying down here? I again, I'm using — (Chuckling)

I hope so. Because this is the real deal, man. There's coming a day, and by the looks of things, by the way, the Millennium: Incidentally, I was thinking about this. 1000 years. Don't think of it like that. Because Peter writes that a thousand years for man is like one day for

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God. Now, we're going to be like Him, with Him in our glorified bodies, as Him, so wouldn't it stand that that 1000 years are going to fly by? Not that I'm suggesting it. I won't look at anyone, that anyone is like, man, we still got to go through the thousand years. That's a long time before we get 21 and 22 and the new heavens, the new earth, an eternity future because...

No. It's going to be like one day. We're going to be like, oh, it's already over. Whew! That was fast. And now the old is gone. It's done. It's over. Now it's the new. I make all things new. And all of that is gone with it, and everything that caused it and everyone that caused it they're gone too. And that's the answer to our "why" question. Why I'll never cry or ever die. Why? No need. No need, no more.

Here's the second one. This one — I mean, they're all biggies, but this might be a biggie for someone. It's in *verse 5*. I'll never doubt or ever fail. Wait, what? Well, this is interesting because what John writes here sort of resolves the aforementioned too unbelievable. to be believable. Notice, John sees the Lord seated on His throne saying, *[I would imagine pointedly, lovingly, but pointedly, firmly]* **“Write this down...”**

What do you write down? Things that are important, so you “no forget.” How am I doing? Apparently, not very good. No. That's it. We write things down, so we don't forget. Write this down. I want you to not forget this. I want you to remember this. I want you to know this.

So He's sitting on the throne. Here's John writing as He's commanded to. And what is He saying? **“I am [The I Am] making everything new... [And watch this] “...for these words are trustworthy and true.”**

Okay, just bear with me. Why? Again. Nothing wrong with asking the “why” question of why is this in my Bible? Why would God have the writer, inspired by the Holy Spirit, write this, this way? In fact, that's a good thing to do is ask the “why” behind the “what” We know the “what.” But do we understand the “why”?

Why would the Lord say to John, **“Write this down.”** And then what does he write down? Everything is new. I am making everything new. And these words are trustworthy and true.

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Do you see where I'm going with this? This is the all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful God who created the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that in them is, including us, in His own image before we were even in our mother's womb. Let that sink in.

Translated: God knows us more than we will ever know ourselves. You know, we say to somebody, "You know me too well." How about that? God knows everything about you. Everything. Before you were born, the day you were born, to the present. Everything.

Maybe that was the wrong way to say that. But here's where I'm headed. This is God's way of saying; I know you're not going to believe this because it's too unbelievable to be believable. It is unreal. Unreal. Unreal. So I want you to write this down, and let's get ahead of this, so that there's no doubt. There's no faltering. Because there will be a lot of questioning about how trustworthy and true are these words.

It's a preemptive strike. Probably shouldn't use those kinds of comparisons. But He's already anticipating the doubt. I was sharing with First Service that my, son asked me the other day said, "Baba, do you ever doubt have doubts about God?" I said, "No, never." And he just walked away. I'm like, I thought, man, I probably could have handled that better, you know because I'm such a perfect father, you know, in all my fallenness.

I followed up I'll have you know because there's some of you are giving me stink eye right now. I followed up, and what I realized was and discerned was, is that he has doubts. That's okay. So I explained to him why it is that I — I don't have any doubts.

Because faith comes by hearing the word of God. And faith cannot coexist with doubt. It's the antithesis of doubt. One cleverly quipped, "One week without the Bible makes one weak. Please tell me you got that, the play on words. Show me a strong Christian, solid, rock solid, not beyond any reasonable doubt, beyond any doubt, no doubt; I'll show you a Christian that is not only in the Word, the Word is in him or her.

You know when we search the scriptures. Oh, we're so cute when we say that, right? "I'm going to search the scriptures. Be like a Berean. Okay, God?" The scriptures are searching you. I'm going to read the Bible. Cool. Because "cool" is still cool. The Bible going to read you. How about that?

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Did I already make the point? I don't want to repeat myself or take the time to unnecessarily. When we call the word of God "God's word," that means that God has given us His word and can never go back on His word. Do you get that? Do you believe that?

Okay, how about this? And then we'll move on to the third one, and then we'll be done. Don't rush me. Can you find me just one — I'll even take half — one promise in God's word that He didn't keep? One. 0.5. if you want. Fine. Whatever. You won't find it. It doesn't exist. Because His word is trustworthy and true.

People these days are on a search for truth. Truth is a person. And His name is Jesus, the name above all names. The only name given among men whereby we must be saved. So will you please receive this blessed promise today? Take it home with you. Take it out to lunch. Take it to bed. Be careful with that one. And let the Lord, just by the Holy Spirit, begin the process of making this real in your life, especially if you're one prone to doubts, failures, falls, faltering.

There's coming a day, and with the looks of things, that day is going to be very, very, very, very — let me have this — very — did I say very? — very, very, very soon. And God wants us to know in advance, so that we can refocus our lives on eternity while still here in the temporal. Because it's what Isaiah said. **"He [God] will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee."**

Man, that's all I'm thinking about. He's all I'm talking about. You know what He's got in store? You haven't heard? What's the matter with you? Don't say like that. You have no clue, do you? Well, let me show you. You're a trust funder. You're going to inherit all of this. Unfathomable, incomprehensible in the natural.

Number 3, this is cool because again, "cool" is still cool, right? *Verse 6.* I'll never want or ever need. I love this. I don't know if it's possible to overstate how profoundly powerful this is. It is done. You're gonna — you'll never be in need. You know the *23rd Psalm*, by the way, just parenthetically, I would encourage you to revisit the *23rd Psalm*. You probably have it on your wall, wallpaper, your refrigerator, whatever. You know it. It's become a recitation. It's rote. You know, **"The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want..."**

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We just kind of, you know, (Mumbling)

No, no, no. Stop! The Lord is my shepherd. I will never be in want for anything. All that I have need of His hand will provide and then some. What if I told you that there's a compelling argument that the *23rd Psalm* is speaking of the pre-Tribulation rapture. That alone should make you want to revisit Psalm 23. **“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death....”**

Last two weeks I've been walking through the valley of the shadow of death. But God. And it's interesting. You know David, the shepherd boy, the man after God's own heart, the sweet psalmist of Israel, he knew what he was talking about, you know. He would lead the sheep through those deep valleys, tall, towering mountains, and particular times of the day the sun would be behind the mountain, and it would cast a dark shadow.

And by the way, if there's no light, you can't have a shadow. You might be in that valley of the shadow of death. Take heart. Because if there's a shadow there, there's a light there.

But here's what would happen. The sheep would get scared easily, as sheep are known to do. when they would be in those valleys, led by their shepherd, and it would get darker, and darker and where's the sun? And when it's dark out, I'm scared of the dark. And that's why I leave all the lights on in the house.

And though I walk through that valley of the shadow of darkness and death, I will fear no evil. Why? Because the Lord is my shepherd. You didn't know that? That's not all. You know what else is also cool? Just let me have it today. I'll try to get build a bridge and get over it by next Sunday or Thursday.

He's actually going to set a table in the presence of my enemy. Sounds a little bit like a Wedding feast of the Lamb to me. I'm going to break bread. Every time we celebrate communion it is a foreshadowing, a remembrance, a commemoration of that too unbelievable to be believable day when we're actually partaking with Jesus as His bride by His side.

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I mean, I just... Pwuh! (Explosion sound) That's another one. Pwuh! (Explosion sound)

Okay, so why does He have John write down that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, before the foundations of the earth were created?

You know this Genesis 1 one, "**Let us create man....**" That was day four. Pardon me Day six.

Pardon me. "**Let us create man in our image**" and not let me create man in my image.

That's the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Oh, here's another one for you. This is no extra charge, no cost, as the water of the fountain of life will be, no cost. You know the light, "**Let there be light**" was day one. But the sun wasn't created until day four. Did you catch that? Wait, I thought the sun was the source of light. No, no, no, no, no, no. He is the source of light. "**Let there be light.**" Day one.

Where's the sun? No, you have to wait for day four. Light. That's why that was no cost.

Because you get what you pay for. I don't know.

But there's really three reasons that John is told to write this down, the first of which is that, hey, I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I created it. I want to create a whole new heavens and earth. I can, you know because I Am.

Here's the second one. There's no greater love than that of Jesus because He laid down His life for us while we were yet still sinners. And third, reason is actually the "how," the "why," the "who." The "how" is Jesus. The "why" is love. And the "who" is you and me, us who freely drink from the spring of the water of life.

Listen, I won't belabor it for a change, but I can't go to the fourth and final one until I say this. This is trustworthy and true, and it's going to be for all eternity. That I will never, ever want, need, or desire anything for ever and ever. Because Jesus will satiate everything forever and ever. No strings attached, no hidden costs, no added cost. Is that too unbelievable to be believable? You better believe it because it's true. Because God said it, and God promised.

Here's the fourth one. And this is, I mean, wow, what a way to end! This one makes me want to cry. I'll never suffer or ever know. You know, it's kind of peculiar at first, right?

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When you read — *verse 7* I'm cool with. But *verse 8*, what? Why do we need to be reminded about the idolaters, the sorcerers, the adulterers and all the “ers” in *verse 8*?

Well, one reason is that it answers an often-asked question of will we know about the people in hell? No. How so? Because if we did know, we would cry. And we were just told you not gonna cry anymore. You're going to feel sorrow and pain and mourning and grief. And we're just told no, no.

Well, then that brings up another often-asked question. Well, wait, will we know each other in heaven? Yes. We're going to have name tags. Hi. My name is... No. I have a biblical support for this. The Mount of Transfiguration. John, James, and Peter. Peter, James, and John. Jesus is glorified before them. And with Jesus is Elijah and Moses. And we were not told anywhere that they had name tags to identify them. In other words, Peter, James, and John knew. That's Moses! That's Elijah!

I like how one said it. I wouldn't say this, so this is not from me. So don't be offended. If you're offended, be offended at the guy who originally said it. When asked, are we going to know each other in heaven? Of course, what? You think you're going to be more stupid in heaven? Again, no, no. I did not originate. That is not from me. So some other pastor said that.

But that's true. Think about it. We'll have our glorified bodies. What, you think we'll still have fallen minds? How's that going to work? It's like putting a I gotta be careful here. I don't know what kind of car you drive. I'll use a car that they no longer make any more. Remember the Yugos? That's a hard no. Okay, I got it. Two yeses. Going once. Going twice. Okay. That's like putting a Mercedes Benz engine in a Yugo car. That's the best I got. So if you have something better.

No, we're going to get our new bodies and our new minds. You know, our minds are fallen. I mean, just look at yourself. Right? No, I'm getting the full meal deal here in body, mind, soul, spirit. All brand-spanking new. No spanking though. No need. Just brand-new. Can't wait! Can't wait!

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But see, in this state, I'll never suffer again. I'll never know. Suffering will be a distant, long-gone thing of the past, known no longer. And this knowing part, okay, yes, we're going to know each other. I don't know how.

I do know the Apostle John says, "**We will know no man after the flesh,**" for which I am so grateful because what John is saying is we will know each other. We just won't know each other like we were down here. Hallelujah, Jesus! Praise the Lord! That's a good thing. We won't know. We're going to know each other, but not like we were when we were in these fleshly tents. There are some details that I think I'd be remiss to not point out before we close, the first of which has to do with this mention of overcomers that will inherit all this.

Can I draw your attention to *1 John 5:4-5*? "**For whatever is born of God [Verse 4] overcomes the world, and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. [Our faith] Who is he [Question] Who [Verse 5] is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"**

Okay, wait. *John 16:33*, Jesus said, *[Cheer up]* "**Be of good cheer. In this world you will have troubles. [Trials, tribulations]**

I wish He would have not used the word "will." I wish you would have used the word you "might" "you could happen upon." No. You will.

[But] "**Be of good cheer because I have overcome the world.**"

And we are overcomers of the world. How? By our faith and trust and belief that Jesus is the Son of God and God the Son.

Real quick. I'm done. Just real quick. You know how when you're sharing your faith with someone, they'll say, "Well, I'm a good person. I've never murdered anybody. I believe in God. I believe in Jesus." What do you do with that? What do you do that? Well, you might want to consider showing them in your Bible, show them because seeing is believing.

Jesus said, "**Believing is seeing.**" Believe. And you'll see. But to the carnal mind, the unregenerated, it's "I'll believe it when I see it." By the way, AI: You know that saying, "You can't believe your own eyes." Good. Because these people in these AI-generated videos

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look more real than the real people look real. So don't believe what you see. Seeing is not believing. Believing is seeing.

Let's talk about this believing for a moment. You might want to take them to *James 2:19* where we're told that "**...even the demons believe and tremble.**" Now, you're not calling them a demon. You're just making a point. Hey, there's no atheists in hell, you know that, right? No, they believe. They just would not receive. And therein lies the difference. So to say, "Yeah, I believe in God. I believe in Jesus," well, congratulations. Even the demons believe and tremble.

Well, now you got a really big problem because you just told me, or better said, God's word just told me that I'm an overcomer by believing, by faith, saved by grace through faith. So Pastor, what does it mean to believe? You ready for it? To believe is to be fully convinced about Jesus. That's metanoia, change of mind, change of thinking, change of direction. You were persuaded, convinced. Now, you've been convinced in the other direction.

I didn't use the word "repentance" because it has been totally — (Deep sigh) it's like penance. You got to do something. You got to repent. Man, you got to repent, dude. Get your act together. Repent. That's not what that means. It's to have a change of mind, a change of a way of thinking about the person of Jesus Christ. That's repentance.

So to believe is to be fully convinced about Jesus, placing complete trust in Jesus, totally relying upon Jesus, and having absolute confidence that Jesus has imputed His perfect righteousness, replacing my own filthy self-righteousness. Illustration. Example. We have to relinquish ownership and sign the title deed of our good deeds and works and righteousness over to the Lord.

And He takes it as filthy as it is, Isaiah says, and He replaces it with His holiness, the Holy Spirit, and His righteousness. It's been best said, I believe, this way. When God sees us, He sees not our sin, but His son. His son. That's what it means. It's simple. You're putting your trust in Him. When you're standing before Him, what are you gonna — what are you gonna — what leg do you have to stand on?

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That was the last one for today, by the way. You don't have a — you don't have a leg to stand on. You don't have any legs to stand on. Because if you're going to stand before God in your own righteousness, you're gonna — I hate to say it, but I have to say it. It's the truth. And I won't cower shrink back from it. You will spend eternity in hell forever. That's the truth of God's word. Check me on it. Search the scriptures. Let the scriptures search you.

If heaven is forever, hell is forever. Let's not gut out the Gospel. Let's not tidy it up and sanitize it, freshen it, make it user friendly, and seeker friendly. No, it's raw, man. So when I'm standing before Him and He says, "Why should I let you in," I'm going to say, "Jesus, where are You?" Oh, wait, here He comes.

He's going to say, "He's good. I got him. I died for him. I took his filthy self-righteousness and imputed My righteousness and holiness, and He now is granted access into heaven," where we'll hear those words, **"Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy prepared for you."**

The only way I'm getting from Hawaii to heaven is through the person and the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Period. Period. If you want to stand there in your own righteousness, go ahead. Go ahead. I'm going to close this way. Thank you for your patience. Boy, it doesn't matter, right, if I'm not in the pulpit for a Sunday. I set new records. It's a goal of mine to go longer each time We're done. But this is important.

Another reason that we have *verse 8* on our Bibles — I don't want to hear about — you just got done saying, no more crying, no more dying, no more mourning, no more suffering, no more nothing. And now you're saying — you're bringing up the cowardly, the unbelieving, the murderers, the sexually immoral, the idolaters, the adulterers, the liars, the sorcerers, and all of them. Why?

Because I want you to know. The source, in a word, for all of them, in a word, sin. And that's gone. It's done. If you don't hear anything that I said — don't look at your watches. No clocks in heaven, either, by the way. No need. Can't wait for that. No need for watch. Nothing.

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If you don't hear anything that I said in the time we've had together today, would you please hear this? Sin isn't bad because it's forbidden. Sin is forbidden because it's bad. And God doesn't want us to suffer needlessly, unnecessarily the consequences of sin.

One has authored a book titled, 'The Tender Commandments.' That caught my attention. I had in my library. Ended up giving it away. I'm sure it's still in print. But the whole gist of it was just exactly this. You know, it's not "**Thou shalt not**" because I am God and I said so. I forbid you. No. That was a little dramatic, over the top, I know, but you get the point. I t's like this. I, as your loving, tender Heavenly Father, love you so much I couldn't stand to watch you go through the consequences that always ensue because of sin. "**Thou shall not covet**" because it'll eat you up for lunch from the inside out. It's like — someone said taking a poison and hoping the person you covet dies, so you can get what you're coveting. That was too much actually on that one.

So this is a loving, tender Heavenly Father saying, "**Don't commit adultery**" and destroy your life and your marriage and your family and your trust and your children and everything. "**Don't murder.**" *[Not kill, murder]* You'll be hunted and haunted for the rest of your life. I just can't — I can't stand to see you suffer that.

The Ten Commandments were never given as the perfect mirror of God's law for us to keep. No. It's so that we can see ourselves in the mirror of God's perfection and how we've fallen short and broken God's law, fallen short of God's glory. And then once we realize that, here comes the Holy Spirit, like the tutor, the principal, the schoolmaster, takes us by the hand, says, "You got it, didn't you?"

"Yeah. I'm a sinner, man. All 10? There's even more I invented. I broke them too."

"Okay, come with me."

Takes me by the hand to the Savior who fulfilled the law. Didn't do away with it, fulfilled it. I'm a law breaker. I broke it. He fulfilled it. I need a savior. I didn't realize until I saw my true condition in the perfect mirror of God's law. Man! That... whoa!

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Even now as I get older, I don't like to look at myself in the mirror. There's hair that's not there where used to be. Hair that is there where it shouldn't be. I won't get any more graphic than that. You know, but I just remember where God's word told me that ahead of time. Outwardly, we decay day-by-day. I think some of us decay faster than others every day. But inwardly we are renewed.

Can't wait to put off this corruptible, mortal body in the twinkling of an eye. That's like a spark, faster than that even. And metamorphosis in the original Greek word, *1 Corinthians 15:51-52*, in the twinkling of an eye, I've got my new glorified body, and I'm snatched up with great force and great speed to meet the Lord in the air.

And the dead in Christ get their bodies first, which I'm cool with because I'm going to see my mommy again, and I hope my daddy, again, and my daughter, and all of my friends, my brothers and sisters who died in Christ. They're present with the Lord in their spirit. But they're going to get their glorified body first, and then we who are alive and remain will be caught up, gone, I mean, so fast, and given a new body, an eternal body, and eternal mind. Oh, man, this is no pie in the sky, no pun intended. This is not — this is not fantasy or fiction. This is more real than the chairs you're sitting in.

Okay, I'll stop. David, are you still here? Come on up. It's like everybody left the building. Why don't you stand up? You guys have been — I told you you're gonna be sitting for a while. Thanks for your grace. Did this in any way encourage or bless you just in a small way? I don't need that. I don't mean that. I just want to know that — I think all of us, I speak for all of you when I say this. We all want to be hearers and doers, taking to heart the word of God. Because unless and until we take it to heart and do, there's no blessing. We just leave it here on the pages of our Bible or device or whatever.

I only asked that question — It wasn't in my notes. God forbid it would ever be in my notes — because I just want to, I guess in some way say that I love you. Actually, I love you very much. And the Lord knows my heart when I say that. But I love you so much that I want you to leave here blessed by the Word and His word and His promise that is trustworthy and true. You've heard truth today. I've spoken truth today directly from the word of God. Take

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it with you and allow the Holy Spirit unfettered access to that deep recess in your heart that you need to sign over to Him.

Father, thank You. I — Please, Jesus, take this mess of a message and do that which only You can. Bless it to the hearts of Your people, that we would all take it to heart as Your people. Because, Lord, this — this is amazing. And we're not surprised because You're amazing. This is awesome. We're not surprised because You're awesome.

So thank You, Lord, for inspiring John to write this ahead of time for us today. Man, if we got this to look forward to, wow. Just wow. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Jesus. Hallelujah! Praise You, Jesus. We bless Your name, Jesus. All the glory goes to You, Jesus, all the glory due Your holy name. In Jesus' name, Amen.