

Prophecy Update
Let's Get Back To Prophecy Basics
Pastor JD

KAPONO: Would you join me in prayer? Father, thank You, Lord. We are blessed because Your mercies are new every morning, Lord. So thank You so much, Lord, for Your grace and Your patience, Lord. Lord, would You make us a needy people, that we would need and want and long for Your word? Change our hearts today, Lord. Be with us during this Prophecy Update, Lord. Would You speak to us, Lord? Anything that we may wrestle with, Lord, would You bring clarity to us, Lord, through Your word? We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. And good morning and welcome. So glad you're here today. I trust that you'll be blessed that you came today. So with that, you can take your seat. And for those of you joining us online, we want to just express to you how grateful we are that you are joining with us and trust also that you'll be blessed that you did.

All right. This is the first, as you know, of two Sunday morning services that we devote to Bible prophecy by way of our weekly Bible Prophecy Update. Then Second Service is actually the sermon, which is a verse-by-verse teaching through the Bible. And for those of you online, the teaching will be livestreamed at 11:15 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time. And for those of you here, the worship will start at 10:45 a.m. local time.

Now, we're currently going verse-by-verse through this amazing Gospel of *Mark*. I know I say "amazing" about every book in the Bible. But today we're going to, Lord willing, finish the chapter, *Chapter 1*, beginning in *verse 39* and through to *verse 45*. And I've titled the sermon this, which actually kind of ties into what the Prophecy Update is going to be about, spoiler alert, Jesus. Okay. Here's the title. 'Let's Really Get To Know The Real Jesus.'

What do you say? No, that's not part of the title; I was...

Here's what I'm hoping will happen today for the Second Service sermon. I'm hoping that we'll be introduced to this first leper that Jesus cleanses, and in so doing, be reintroduced to the real Jesus in a very real way. Inference being that there's a lot of Jesuses out there, but there's only one true, real Jesus. And that's what we're going to talk about today, believe it or not, shocking, the real Jesus. All right.

Now it gets better. Today, for the Prophecy Update, we're going to do what we've not done in over four years, actually commencing in 2020. We would end the livestream midstream

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and sort of pre-announce that those joining us on social media, namely YouTube or Facebook, go directly to the website or one of the other platforms, TV app, which are all listed in the description below if you're on YouTube. And so we did this last week. And so for the first time in over four years, we're going to do it two weeks in a row. Yeah.

What are we doing? Well, we're not going to end the livestream midstream. And as such, it can be viewed for those of you online, in its entirety on all social media platforms, websites, etc. And here's why. And hear my heart and hear me out.

In my time with the Lord and in the word of the Lord, it's becoming clear that there is a Bible prophecy overload, and it's causing a Bible prophecy fatigue. And by that, I mean there's so much information, really too much information, and it's creating the ensuing confusing of many Christians today. Confession. It's not salacious. So don't look at me like, Ho!

I have to confess before the Lord and before you that I have stopped watching Prophecy teachers' YouTube videos for quite some time now because I know God's not the author of confusion. But after I got done watching, I was in confusion. And I happened to know a thing or two about Bible prophecy. I've only been teaching it for some 25 years now. I've been a student of Bible prophecy for over 44 years. So it's no small thing when a student of Bible prophecy, let alone a teacher of Bible prophecy, is confused by a teaching on Bible prophecy. Is that — are you guys — are we — did that... You'll say anything, right, so I'll keep moving. I'll keep moving.

I've been praying and fasting, asking the Lord for all of us, myself included myself, especially, to just get back to the basics of Bible prophecy for much-needed clarity. Here's the question. Would you agree with me that it's so easy to get caught up, pun intended, in what the so-called prophecy expert has to say about the latest prophetic development?

Oh, I wonder what Pastor JD is going to say about that. Don't do that. I promise you I'll disappoint you. I hope you don't misunderstand me because I'm just as prone as the next guy, again, if not more so when it comes to staying updated on the latest prophetic developments. My goodness, I've been doing it for 21 years since I started this, God's church.

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If you're wondering, because I can read your minds, remember? So something's coming in right now. Yes. Answer is yes. I will be doing future Updates, Lord willing, if we're still here, that we'll be content rich in their connecting of current prophetic world events to Bible prophecy. I can't not. I know that's a double negative and not a proper sentence structure, but I can't not. I will. But just not today. Not today.

Here's the problem. And again, I'm just going to lovingly ask you to just hear me out. The main thing is no longer the main thing. Reason? Because of the replacement with the latest, greatest prophetic thing. Who is the — what's the main thing? Is not what's the main thing? Who is the main thing? Jesus.

Dare I say that this is exactly what the enemy is seeking and, sadly, accomplishing, being met with unmatched and unequalled smashing success within Christendom today. I'll be more specific. It's that of distracting attention away, refocusing eyes off, itching ears by, and worse, stealing hearts from Jesus, so we don't remember Jesus. It's no wonder Jesus would say what we affectionately refer to as the Last Supper prior to His crucifixion, the Passover Lamb fulfilling the Passover prophecy on Passover. It's no wonder that He would say, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

Translated: You won't remember Me, so I'm going to have you do this, so you remember Me because you'll forget. I have a — when my wife was with me, we used to banter back and forth. Boy, I miss those times. She would say, "Remind me not to forget." And I just would look at her like you want me to remember, to not forget, so that you don't forget to remember? What if we both forget? Which was oftentimes the case. Students and teachers of Bible prophecy focus more on the prophetic significance of world events than they do on Jesus. There I said it.

And here's the thing. If and when that happens, and it happens and again, I'll humble myself and confess I'm just as guilty of doing this for the better part of 20-plus years, Jesus gets replaced. And in His place is the latest prophetic development.

And it's ironic. It's the irony of ironies to me. Because the purpose of Bible prophecy is for the pointing of us to Jesus and His unbreakable promise to us that soon and very soon He's coming back for us. How ironic is that? Oh, Prophecy Update. All right. Cool. What's going

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on? He's going to connect the dots. Well, you know what's going on with Iran, Israel, U.S., et al? Wow, wow, wow, wow!

Wait! Why “wow”? That kind of had a catch to it. Why “wow”? Why are you “wow”? Are you “wow” because of the Bible Prophecy Update, or are you “wow” because of what The Bible Prophecy Update points to? Are we okay? I'm not upset. I know I look upset, but I was born with this face. So you just have to build a bridge and get over with it. Get over it. That's what my wife would always tell me. I still hear her, you know. I just, you know — not that I'm hearing voices. I just hear her voice.

Now, in all fairness, world events of prophetic significance certainly have their place. However, sadly, as I mentioned, it seems that instead, they've replaced. Even Jesus, throughout the Gospels, redirected them then, and I believe us now, because they were always seeking signs. They wanted the wow, the flash, the splash.

And, you know, *John's Gospel*, I want to say, is *Chapter 3* — check me on it — they demanded a sign. He said no. Jesus said no. The only sign you're going to get as Jonah. Ha! How about that? Jonah, a type of Christ in the sense that he was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish. And so too would the Savior be three nights and three — three days and three nights in the belly of the earth. But He would rise again on the third day. That's the only sign you get.

Can I have one more? No. That's the only one you get. So this whole notion of the signs of the times and Bible prophecy, and again, the irony of focusing on the signs that focus on Jesus. We focus on who the signs point to: Jesus. Jesus is our final and eternal destination.

If I could be so bold — why stop now — to focus only on signs is to — listen — it gets too dangerously close to idolatry. You know what idolatry is? Anything or anyone that replaces the rightful place of Jesus Christ in your life. That's idolatry. It can be a person, a thing. I'll let you fill in the blanks with the Holy Spirit, because He'll do a much better job than I ever could.

What happens is by focusing only on signs, we're unseating Jesus from His rightful, central position on the throne of our lives as our Savior, Redeemer, King of kings, and Lord of lords. Here's one more thing, and it's not in my notes.

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So this is — I'm on my own here. Help me. Sometimes I fear that students of Bible prophecy just want to be in the know, so they can show they're in the know. Well, here's what I want to know. You're in the know? Well, what I want to know is do you know Jesus? This is — here's another question. I don't have many of these, you'll be glad to know.

But this is an important question of what exactly are the Bible prophecy basics? And the answer is quite simple. And in fact, it may be too simple. So simple are the Bible prophecy basics that starting with the first prophecy in the Bible — you know where it is? *Genesis 3:15*, the first book of the Bible. That's the first prophecy in the Bible. And go figure; it points to the person of Jesus Christ.

That was a Genesis — back in that day — Prophecy Update, *Genesis 3:15*, Jesus. Jesus. What specifically? I'm glad you asked. His First Coming, which has been miraculously, even impossibly fulfilled, but God is the god of the impossible, vis-à-vis over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament.

Parenthetically, let me just insert one mathematician. I believe his name was Henry Stoners. That's probably wrong. He calculated — man, guys like, who have brains wired like that, I love you. I have a sanctified covetousness and jealousy of you because you just have this ability to — and gift really — to calculate and comprehend mathematical equations that are beyond my comprehension, which doesn't take much. By the way, two plus two equals four. And then I'm good; I'm done. But I can comprehend that.

But he did a calculation of the odds, statistical probabilities of one man just fulfilling only eight of the 300 prophecies that would have to be precisely fulfilled with precision accuracy of the Savior's First Coming. And you know what the number came out to? I showed it one time during a Resurrection Sunday service many years ago. You won't remember. Because if I don't remember, you won't remember. But I put it up on the screen, and it was just a lot of zeros to the 10th power and incalculable. Just eight. There's 300-plus. Just eight.

So Bible prophecy basics, 101 if you prefer, the prophecies of the First Coming of Jesus: and they comport with the plethora of New Testament prophecies of — listen — His appearance — not coming — appearance in the air, where we meet Him in the air at the Rapture before the seven-year Tribulation and His Second Coming after the seven-year Tribulation.

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Bible prophecy. Do you see a common theme here? Do you see a common denominator here? What does all of this have in common, basically, when it comes to Bible prophecy? Jesus. Listen to what the Apostle John, inspired by the Holy Spirit, writes in the last book of the Bible, *Revelation 19:10*. **“For the testimony [Hang on to that word] of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.”**

Boom. Mic drop. The testimony? You know what that word comes from and carries with it the meaning of? Testify. Testament. Under oath testimony. In other words, the Old Testament testifies with truthful testimony of Jesus.

Okay, Pastor, why are you getting so uptight about this? Upset about this? Because Jesus isn't just about the Spirit of prophecy. Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy. Example: God is love. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. How about this? I know God loves me. Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

No, wait, wait, wait, wait. What if I told you He likes you? He does? He is love. Not has love. He is love. That's just who He is. Jesus is prophecy. That's just who He is. Did you connect that? Please tell me you did.

These are the words of Jesus himself in *John's Gospel, Chapter 5, beginning in verse 36*. **“I have testimony weightier than that of John for the works that the Father has given Me to finish— the very works that I am doing— testify that the Father sent Me. And the Father who sent Me has Himself testified concerning Me. You have never heard His voice, nor seen His form, nor does His word dwell in you for you do not believe the one He sent.”**

[Despite the testimony, all of the testifying and studying.] [Verse 39, Jesus speaking.] **“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are these very scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life. I do not accept glory from man, but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept Me; but [Watch this one] if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.”**

That's prophecy. You know what is a prophecy about? The Antichrist. The name of the Antichrist. Antichrist doesn't just mean against Christ, but instead of Christ, a replaced Christ, in the place of Christ. So here I am. You have all this testimony, and you still don't

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believe. The verdict is in, and you don't believe the truth that has just been testified. And you reject Me, but you will come in my Father's name, and you reject Me. But there is coming one, the Antichrist, in his own name, which is interesting in and of itself, because it suggests that the Antichrist's name, *[Name]* and we miss it in the Western culture, but being from the Middle East, it's not lost on me because the name is the nature.

Isaac in English, Yiṣḥāq in Hebrew, Ishāq in Arabic, my native tongue, literally the name means the nature, “laughter.” And this is laughable: A 90-year-old woman who is womb was long barren and closed gives birth to a son? Ha! Let's name him that. And Sarah laughed. It literally means laughter.

My name, my given name, which I don't like — can't wait for my new name — Jesus is going to give me a new name — you too. I can't wait. I've already placed my order, you know, my wish list. Is that bad? Wahid. You see why I came up with the alias or A.K.A., nickname of JD, which stands for Jesus' Disciple? First of all, it's very easy to spell JD. How do you spell JD? You just did. How do you spell Wahid? How do you pronounce Wahid Way-head?

[Laughter]

Yeah, way-head, the aye-rab.

[Laughter]

Okay, just let me have that one, okay? You know, my mommy and daddy named me according to my nature, because you see, Wahid is literally “only one.” If you read an Arabic Bible, you will read of Jesus, He was the El Wahid, Wahid, first begotten son. The numbers one through five in Arabic. Wahid, ithnan, thalatha, arba'ah, khamsah. My name literally means number one.

[Laughter]

Don't worry; I'm not going to get struck by a bolt of lightning bolt, though I should.

Pastor, please, can you get to the point?

I will. Don't rush me. The name. What do we know to be true about the name of Yeshua? Joshua. They don't pronounce the J in Hebrew, Yeshua. Jesus in English. Jesús. You know, those of you — we were in — my wife and I — this is when we — this is B.C. — not before

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Christ — before children — when we could travel. We went to Mazza, Mexico, and up comes to our table a guy with the name tag — you're Jesus? Jesús. Jesús. Okay. Wow, I was thinking Jesus is serving — well, He came to serve, but He's not coming back the second time to serve. No.

What do we know to be true about the name of Jesus? It's the name above all names. The only name given among men whereby we must be saved. That's why it is when you introduce the name or dare to speak the name Jesus in the midst of a conversation, air stops. Oh, pardon my French. Hey, dude, my dad was a French teacher. That wasn't French. But you're pardoned. I excuse you.

All of a sudden, their whole countenance changes. Their whole vocabulary changes. Their whole disposition changes. Why? Because you have just spoken the name above every name. The name of Jesus. God help me if I ever cease to glorify and magnify and exalt the name above every name, the name of Jesus.

I'm gonna — some of you — if you watch the video after, if you want, just for fun, those of you that have minds that can do this — I want you to count how many times I speak the name of Jesus in just this Prophecy Update. And then if you really want extra credit, Second Service, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

That's your prophecy Update today?

Yeah. Jesus. You want us to bow our heads and close our eyes so you can slip out now? See, the online people; all they got to do is just click.

I come in my Father's name. And by the way, that's another thing we miss in the West. And I'll get there. Just be patient with me, please. Patience is the fruit of love, which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, by the way.

Okay, so then — I come in the name of the Father. Do you know that it is more of an honor in my culture in the Middle East to call me by the name of my first begotten son than it is to call me by the title of Pastor? Abu = father, Elias = the first name of firstborn son. Abu Elias.

That's why you see, even in the news today, when it comes to the Middle East, Abu Mazen, Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian — I should have never went there — (Icky

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sound) Abu Mazen. Oh, you mean Abu Mazen? Mazen's dad. Abu Mazen. Oh, yeah. I know who you're talking about.

Jesus goes on, *verse 44*, **“How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, [By the way] on whom your hopes are set. [The law of Moses.] [Jesus goes on to say, verse 46] If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, [Why?] for he wrote [Testified] about Me, but since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”**

Wow! Oh! Whew! We did a study, for those of you that were with us and survived it, on how Moses was a type of Christ, powerful. The most powerful typology pointing to the person of Jesus Christ is Joseph. I have over 123 types of where Joseph becomes a type or a picture, a foreshadow, a prefigurement of the person of Jesus Christ.

You can't go anywhere in the Old Testament and not find Jesus there. You'll find Him in the very beginning. **“Let us create man in our image.”** Wait, wait, wait. Us? Our? Not let me create man in my image? That's singular No. Who **“we”**? Who **“our”**? Oh, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Well, I'm going to get my blood pressure up, so I'll stop at that.

Enter a summary of the basics of Bible prophecy in both the Old and New Testament, all of which is prophecy pointing to Jesus. Why? Because the Spirit of prophecy is Jesus. The basics of Bible prophecy is simply this.

Jesus came the first time, precisely according to prophecy. Then Jesus will rapture His bride prior to the start of the seven-year Tribulation, precisely according to prophecy. Then at the end of the seven-year Tribulation, Jesus will come the second and final time, at which time He will set up His kingdom reign precisely according to prophecy. There. Take notes. You'll be tested on it next week. No, you won't. I should, but you won't.

Here's the main point. Oh, finally. Couldn't you have gotten to this sooner? Surely. But that's no fun. I want to take you guys on the scenic route. There's more to see. We'll get to the final point, the main point, the final destination. But I want to take you on the scenic route. Just takes a little bit longer. That's my story and I'm sticking with it. So...

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Main point. Don't miss this By getting back to Bible prophecy basics, we get back to Jesus, and in so doing, Jesus will get back to His rightful place where He belongs in the first place. Let me — this is from the heart, okay? I'm at a point in my life where I'm experiencing the deepest, most unimaginable pain in my life. But it's also a time in my life when I've been the closest to Jesus than I ever have before in my life. So if you're wondering why, that's why And oh, by the way, I've quoted it many times. You'll never know Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have.

I don't have my wife anymore. But I have Jesus. And He's closest to the ones who have their hearts broken and their spirits crushed. My relationship with Jesus has become so intimate and so close, so much so that I just have to talk about my Jesus. And I can't talk about Bible prophecy without talking about Jesus. Okay.

Now, I'd like to begin emphasize, highlight, bold, italics, emoji if you want, highlight, begin bringing it to an end. Begin. In the end, it's just Jesus and only Jesus. We just read it, the testimony of it, the Spirit of prophecy testifying to it. It's the second person of the Trinity as the Godhead. His name is Jesus.

Okay, Pastor, what? I have a question for you since you have some questions for us. That's fine. Why are you doing this? Notice I didn't say, "Why are you doing this to us?" I'm not doing anything to you. I hope I'm doing something for you by reintroducing you to the purpose, the Spirit, the point of prophecy: Jesus.

I'm going to say what I had to say last Sunday. Today is for those with ears to — not itching ears that only hear what they want to hear, what their ears are itching to hear. No. Those with ears — I think we all have two. Anybody here — don't raise your hand — only have one?

My wife always made a point to point out that I had two ears and one mouth to listen twice as much as I speak. Okay. It didn't work out so well. Ears to hear. That's — that's almost a — there's — Chuck Missler taught me — there's over a hundred names for these idioms, metaphors, analogies, paradoxes, whatever. But those with ears to hear. Wait. Doesn't that presuppose that if I have ears I'm going to hear?

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No, that's the point. Just because you have ears doesn't mean you hear. And that's why God didn't give us earlids. Was that too much? Well, think about it. We don't need them because we have automatic earlids. Cover our ears when we don't want to hear. We cover our eyes when we don't want to see. We cover our ears when we don't want to hear.

Those — this is what today is for — those with ears to hear what the Spirit has to say. Not what the expert — I hate that — you know that — I'm sorry about that. I don't like to be called that. JD's a prophecy expert. Stop that. I'm a prophecy teacher because I'm a Bible teacher. And you can't teach the Bible without teaching prophecy because, well-nigh one third of the Bible is prophecy.

Well, my pastor teaches the Bible, but he doesn't teach prophecy. Wow! Pray tell how does he do that? Because if one third of my Bible is prophecy and he's allegedly, supposedly teaching the Bible but not teaching prophecy, what's he doing? Ripping — God forbid — don't do this. Ripping pages out like Thomas Jefferson did, by the way. You didn't know that, did you? Don't get me started on that.

But we do that. We — I'm speaking broadly. We have a selective hearing. Bible teachers in name only, like we would say they're Christian in name only; they're not really Bible teachers because if they were Bible teachers, they would be prophecy teachers. You can't separate the two. You know what? I don't want to know what they have to say. I only want to know what the Spirit has to say to us, His church, today.

I wonder. We have the seven letters of the seven churches in *Revelation, Chapters 2 and 3*. I wonder. These were literal churches. I wonder if a letter dictated by the Savior himself through a human author, inspired by the Holy Spirit, was composed and sent to us, what would it say?

I tell you what I hope it would never say. I have this against you. You've left your first love. you've replaced your — not lost. See, if you lost it, you've got to find it. No, no, no, no, no, no. Please, I beg of you. I beg of you. I plead with you. Know and understand and interpret the scriptures and study to show yourself approved, rightly dividing word of truth.

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It's you've left your first love. Deliberate; that was a deliberate action. You left your first love. Jesus no longer has that first place in your life. He is no longer the first love of your life. Remember, repent, [*Change your mind*] and repeat the first works.

What does that mean? What worked at first? Remember when you were first in love? You even talked sappy. You opened the door for her. And then you get married. It's like, "Get in. Hurry up. We're running late. What's the matter with you?"

Wow. Where's the love? You know, back in the days on the mainland — some here, but I don't like to make references here because then people start looking at the person next to them. Don't do that.

When I would have married couples come in for biblical guidance, not counsel, biblical guidance, I would always put it on the husband because he's the one that's the spiritual leader. So he has to take the lead. It's his move. So when's the last time you bought her flowers? You know, true story; I had one guy tell me — he said, "If I showed up at home with flowers for my wife, you know what she would ask me?" "What did you do?"

Wow! That is sad and bad. When was the last time you held her hand? When was the last time you just lent her your ear and listened or gave her your shoulder to cry on? Instead of your mouth trying to come up with a fix? She doesn't need you to fix it. Men are fix-its. We want to get in there and fix it. No, she just wants you to listen.

When was last time you expressed to her, husbands, how much you cherish her? How much you love her? Because if she doesn't feel like she's the most important person in her husband's life next to Jesus Christ, she is going to be very insecure. And that is a recipe for marriage disaster. I know I've used the three A's. I'm going to use them again. I hope you don't tire of me using them.

Women need three A's. Affection, attention, affirmation. Picture your wife, husbands, as — and you're hearing this from a guy — how do I not bring my wife into this? She was the love of my life. Picture your precious, cherished, prized wife. How about the scriptures? The one who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtain a favor from the Lord. Wow!

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Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. Love your wives as you love your own bodies. Love your wives as you love yourself. She's a beautiful, rare flower. When was the last time you watered it with the water of God's word?

I'm going to bring it in for a landing. Just saying it gives you hope I hope. I know I've said this in many ways, different ways, the same thing. I'm gonna say it again today. And I want you to please lend me your ear, as I just said, and hear. I have an audience of one. I'm not a performer. I'm not a competitor. I'm not a promoter. I'm not seeking clicks and likes or even nickels and noses. I'm a pastor and teacher. I seek only to do what is right in the Lord's sight.

This is what He's called me to. And woe unto me if I seek to be a man pleaser and not a God pleaser by not teaching the whole counsel of God, *Acts 20, Genesis through to Revelation*. And woe unto me, as the Apostle Paul would say, And by the way, woe is not like whoa! It's a curse. Cursed be me, a curse come upon me if I don't preach the Gospel.

Here's the bottom line This might be selfish. So what? I will stand before the Lord and give an account for the profound privilege that is mine to stand behind this pulpit in this, His church. I will give an account. Did I preach the Gospel? Did I teach the Word? Did I feed the sheep? Did I equip the saints? I got a checklist.

I want every single one of those boxes checked with a big Sharpie, because when it's all said and done, the only thing that's going to matter is Jesus. How many people did I take to heaven, to Jesus, with me? How many people did I introduce Jesus to? Again, it's getting Jesus to people and people to Jesus and equipping you for the work of the ministry. This is *Ephesians 4*.

And then we'll close, my final — my almost final closing. This is important. *Ephesians 4*, beginning *verse 11*, the Apostle Paul, by the Spirit, **“And He himself [Speaking of Christ] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors, and teachers for the [Watch this: for the entertaining of the church with light shows and skinny jeans?] [You can't unsee that image, can you?] [Don't worry; you won't ever see me in those.] [No.] for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, [That's**

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Jesus! **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature, of the fullness of Jesus Christ,** *[That's Jesus!]* **that we should no longer be children** *[Can I just say be babies?]* **tossed to and fro,** *[You know, like those air things they do for promos] [How am I doing?]* **tossed to and fro, carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of man in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,** *[Don't be so stupid.] [Boy, I'm getting that in at least one time a teaching, yes?] [Proverbs 12:1 and elsewhere the word "stupid" is in the Bible.] [So I'm just saying.]* **but speaking the truth in love...** *[Because of love — think about this.]*

If I don't love you, why would I bother? I used to tell my kids growing up — in fact, they remind me of this to this day. I said, "We discipline you because we love you." To which they usually respond, "Can you not love us so much?"

No, if we didn't do this, you know, it would mean we just didn't care or you're not our child. That's Hebrews Because you're not going to discipline somebody else's child. If you do that, let me know how that works out for you, how that ends for you. Hebrews, the writer of Hebrew, says, "That's how we know we're His children." We get a spanking.

Because if I'm in a grocery store, which I don't get out much, and I look down the aisle, and there's a child throwing a temper tantrum, I'm very grateful for the mother that has given that child a spanking. Oh, Pastor, you better be careful these days because, you know, you might get reported.

Spanking. Discipline. If you hate them, don't discipline them. That's Proverbs, by the way. If you love them, you will. If you care about them, you will. You know, you speak the truth in love because of love, because you care enough. I actually had — on the mainland — real quick. Oh, I'm not supposed to use those two words. I'm sorry. You have to forgive me. No, you have to.

On the mainland, I mean, this guy had never been rebuked, confronted. Not one time. And he was so full of himself. And now he's sitting across the desk from me. I'm like, "Thanks a lot, Lord. I get to be the sandpaper. Can You find somebody else? I'm kind of tired. Do I have to?" And I actually just prayed a Nehemiah a quick prayer in my heart. God, give me the right words in the right way to say with the right heart.

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And this is what the Lord put on my heart to say. Do you have anybody in your life that loves you enough to tell you the truth? Because from where I'm sitting, it doesn't seem like that. So I guess I'll do it.

“Speaking the truth in love, [Why?] [So that you] may grow up [Grow up.] [Grow up, already] in all things up in all things into Him [Who?] Him who is the head — [Jesus] Christ — from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Did you catch all of that? That was a long one, wasn't it? He's the head. There's a lot of beheaded churches out there. Jesus Christ is not at the head, and that's why the body — I won't do the — yeah, I'll spare you. You deserve a break this day.

We're going to end as we always end and have been for years with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the good news of salvation and eternal life, paid for in full by Jesus Christ. That's what the word “gospel” means. Good news. Your debt's been paid in full by another. Good news. You're free to go. **“And whom the Son has set free is free indeed.”** And we're ashamed of that?

These ABCs of salvation that we do every week is not a formula. It's not THE way. It's a way. It's a tool to equip you with so that when God, should He ever deem you privileged to cross paths with someone who desperately needs Him, you won't freeze up. You'll know what to do.

What are the ABC's? Childlike simple tool for sharing Jesus. And the A is for admit or acknowledge that you're a sinner in need of the Savior. Because think about it. Why would you have the least bit interest in the Savior of the world if you don't see yourself as a sinner in the world?

And this is the obstacle. Because I'm sure it's been your experience that when you tried to share Jesus with somebody, they'll say, “Well, I'm a good person.” Well, you may be a good person, but you'll never be good enough.

And *Romans 3:10* tells us why. **“There is no one [Good or] righteous, not even one.”**

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That kind of closes that file. Next. *Romans 3:23* takes it further, explaining why you can't be the exception and the only one who is good because **“No one is good, not even one.”**

You know why? **“Because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** That's what the word “sin” actually means. It's an arbitrary term. You fell short of the bull's eye. You missed the mark.

Yeah, but you know, I've kept nine of the Ten Commandments. Yeah, but if you miss the mark on one of the commandments, you've broken the whole law. You're a sinner. I missed the boat. I hit it nine times. The tenth one: I missed it. I fell short of it.

You sinned. You sinned. So we're all sinners, and we've all fallen short of God's perfect standard of righteous. It's His perfect law which shows us: Us in our true condition. Lawbreakers, sinners in need of a savior.

Okay, Pastor, if that's true, and it absolutely is, then wouldn't it stand to reason that there would be a penalty for our sin? There most definitely is. And *Romans 6:23* tells us that it's the death penalty. Do you realize that we've all been sentenced to death for all eternity? Remember now, we are trying to overcome the obstacle of “I'm a good person” because the average person believes that all good people go to heaven, all bad people go to hell.

I got news for you. There's gonna be a lot of bad people in heaven. I'll be at the front of that line, and you'll be right behind me, so don't get spiritual on me. And there's going to be a lot of very, very good, upstanding people in hell. That's not the gauge by which the measurement is used, granting you access to the Kingdom of Heaven. The only way is Jesus. He's the only way to the Father. There is no other way, the Father except through Him, because He's THE way, THE truth, and THE life.

Now that's the obstacle. And that's not an easy one to overcome. And don't get into an argument because you're never going to argue somebody into the kingdom. I've yet to have anybody in the midst of a heated argument (Arguing loudly) — I'm trying to share Jesus with you. We're arguing and yelling and screaming. What are you going to do? Stop in the middle of that and go, “Oh, you're right, I'm so wrong. What must I do to get saved?”

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Have you ever had that happen? Probably not. You'll win the argument. You'll lose the opportunity. So this is huge. You've got to overcome this obstacle. And if you can't overcome it, Spirit-led, Spirit-prompted, shake the sand off your slippers and move on. Move on. Because you've got to get to the central and essential B, which is for believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord. Why?

Romans 10:9 says, **“If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, [Listen] you will be saved.”**

Okay. Well, I believe — I believe in God. I believe in Jesus. *James 2:9* says, **“Even the demons believe and tremble.”**

You know, there's no demon atheists. They don't have the First Demonic Church of the Atheists. I probably could come up with something better, but that was on the fly. No, they believe. Remember what we saw in *Mark's Gospel* a couple weeks ago? Oh, they believe. We've went into great detail over the last several weeks concerning what it means to truly believe. I'm only going to expound today on why it is so central and essential.

To believe means that one changes one's mind and one's wrong way of thinking, which is essential to change one's wrong direction, changing course, doing a one-eighty, and turning around to the right direction. Changing one's wrong direction and wrong way of thinking and deciding [*Decision in the mind*] to turn around to the right direction and the right way of thinking. It's the Greek word metanoia, literally transliterated: Changed mind. You know what that word is in English? Repent.

Stay with me. Repentance is not a prerequisite to believing, leading to salvation. Rather, it's the central and essential result of the genuineness of believing, leading to salvation. I thought I had to repent to be saved. No. When you believe, by default, you've repented. Put another way, if I truly believe in Jesus, I'll repent by believing and turn around to Jesus becoming a believer of Jesus.

Now, we still got this question of the demons believing in, as we're told in *James 2:19*. What's up with that? How do you address that? Because they're believers. Yeah, but — they believe in Jesus. Oh, you better believe they believe in Jesus. But their decision in

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rebelling and refusing to repent and turn to Jesus sealed their fate of damnation instead of salvation from Jesus. That's the difference.

Now, once the central, essential believing in Jesus — *Romans 2:4* — **“It is the kindness of God that leads a man to repentance.”** Godly sorrow, Paul, writing in the Corinthians, leads to genuine repentance. So the obstacle's being overcome, A. The essential and central has been accomplished, B.

Now, we come to the C, and it's the evidential. It's evidence of, as the Apostle John would write, **“You can know that you have eternal life.”**

You know, this is crucial. And I think this might be for somebody that needs to hear this, whether here or online. The jury is no longer out. The verdict's already in. You don't have to wonder, man.

Yeah, I don't know. I sure hope so.

Stop. Stop. Stop. You can know. You have forensic evidence that you have eternal life. I call it — I know it's dorky — whatever. You have, I have, those of us who are born again an eternal life assurance policy. Did you get that? Is that...? Okay. And you've got the documentation, the evidence, the evidential.

How? The C: confessing, calling what comes out of your mouth. Jesus said in both *Matthew 12:34* and *Luke 6:45*, **“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”**

See, we don't know what's in somebody's heart. Only God knows the heart. We don't judge the motives of somebody's heart, but we can know the fruit, know them by their fruit. See, the root is the heart. What? I only see the fruit. Jesus said, **“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit. A bad tree cannot bear good fruit.”**

So how am I going to know if that's a good tree or a bad tree? How am I going to know what's at the root in the heart? What comes out of the mouth, man. If the heart is full of bitterness, guess what's going to come out of the mouth? Bitterness. The heart's full of anger. What's going to come out of the mouth? Anger? What if the heart is full of Jesus? What's going to come out of the mouth? Jesus.

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You know, people think I've lost my marbles, assuming I had marbles to lose to begin with. But I shout the name of Jesus in my car. The driver next to me gets out of my way. That's a good way, by the way.

[Laughter]

Do it in line at the grocery store. You'll have no problems. I'm constantly praising Jesus. And don't use "Lord." That's generic. The demons don't tremble at that name. Or "God." Which God?

No. It's the name of Jesus. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. You're under intense spiritual warfare right now? I mean, get that worship music on that praises the name of Jesus. I want that, the name of Jesus in that song 38 times to qualify. And then you fill in the blanks. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. They can't stand it, and they flee. You can give them the address to your neighbor's. They can go. Resist the Devil. He will flee. Get out of here. Jesus. In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name. Because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Well, if the abundance of my heart is Jesus, then the abundance coming out of my mouth is Jesus. *Romans 10:9* also says, **"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' [And look at the connection here.] and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."** Translated: When you have Jesus your heart, you'll confess Jesus with your mouth.

And then *Romans 10:13*, lastly, says, **"That [I love this.] all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."**

He will in no ways cast out or turn away anybody. I would implore you if you're here locally or you're watching online, virtually, please — and I appreciate you. I'm grateful for you sticking in there with me. But this — we're not talking about life and death here. The stakes are infinitely higher than that. We're talking about eternity in heaven or eternity in hell here. This is the most, bar none, important decision of your life for eternal life. And if you haven't made that decision, make that decision today. And don't delay because tomorrow is not promised. Today is the day of salvation.

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I hope that didn't come across mean. But I happen to be very passionate about this now. Because this is — I know — not proper English — more real than the chairs you're sitting on today. And it's real soon, sooner than I think any of us could possibly even begin to imagine. And I'm not just saying that as a grief-stricken widower who's lost his wife of 37 years. I'm saying that as a follower of Jesus, a teacher of His word, a preacher of the Gospel. I'm telling you; He's coming. He's coming. That trumpet's gonna sound. That trumpet's gonna sound. I had to throw that went in there.

Today's "But God" testimony is more of a salvation testimony that's sweet, short, and to the point, unlike your pastor. It comes from Zack Summers, who writes, "God directed me to one of your prophecy videos on YouTube. Honestly, I wasn't much of a believer, but after watching your video, I have decided to give my life to Jesus. Praise God and thank you for being a servant of God."

That's all I need. That's all I need. Amen.

[Applause]

Come up, Kaponu. Stand up, please. Thank you for — I know, again, half of your body went numb. But let's pray, and then Kaponu will close us in song.

Father, I — I'm — I'm surrendering myself as a living sacrifice on Your altar. Take all of me, Lord, for Your good pleasure. Do with me as You please. Because I am only the instrument in Your hand. I'm only the vessel. I'm only the mouthpiece. I'm only the messenger that You have chosen because You choose the foolish to confound the wise and the weak to shame the strong, so that You alone receive all the glory due Your holy name. Lord, I poured my heart out today with the hopes of returning hearts to You, Jesus. Please forgive us, Lord, myself, forgive me. I'm just as guilty getting so wrapped up and... in prophecy, and so do you, when the prophecy is You.

Like we saw in Malachi *Chapter 3* on Thursday night, James echoes it. You plead with Your people. Return to Me, and I will return to You, says the Lord of hosts. Oh, Lord, for anyone that's distanced themselves from You or had anything get in between them and You, I pray today they would return to You, draw near to You, and that You in turn would near to them. And me too. In Jesus' name. Amen.