

Title: Having a Godly Attitude

Description: In this Sunday evening message from Psalm 119:153-160, Pastor Anthony Kim of Calvary Road Baptist Church shows the psalmist holding fast to God's word while his afflictions only deepen, and calls believers to keep a godly attitude when suffering does not lift. Three times he cries, Quicken me, as he asks the Lord to consider his affliction, plead his cause, and deliver him, resting on God's tender mercies and righteous judgments rather than on his own strength. It warns that salvation is far from the wicked who seek not God's statutes, teaches believers to grieve over sin instead of taking wrongs personally, and urges a heartfelt love for God's precepts, because His word is true from the beginning. It points to Jesus Christ the righteous, our advocate with the Father, who pled our cause with His own blood so that we might have life more abundantly.

Transcript:

You will, and you have your Bibles with you, go ahead and turn with me to Psalm 119. And we'll be in verse 153 to 160. Psalm 119, verses 153 through 160. We're going to see the psalmist in this stanza maintaining his confidence in God's word to sustain him to help him in times of need. Yet what we're also going to see with his confidence in God's word and he is just like all of us as believers in Christ. We go through difficult circumstances and at times it seems God doesn't change those circumstances. Have you or are you currently experiencing some kind of circumstance where God is not changing it?

You see, the psalmist although he is confident in God's word, he's pleading before God over with his word open with the word of God open. He still is suffering much affliction. He's still going through difficulties and circumstances don't seem to change. He's praying. He's reading scripture. He's consistent. And yet suffering still remains.

Have you ever felt that? Have you experienced that? I hope this message encourages you to stay consistent despite of all those things because you see his experience and like our experience as believers in Christ were given both a warning to heed God's word to continue to heed God in prayer and an example to follow in similar fashion. To not stop even though the afflictions get more intense, even though trials may be more heated.

And so devotion then, and I spoke on this last Sunday, a wholehearted devotion to the Lord will not solve all your problems. It's just not going to

happen. As we read from God's word, it may produce actually more problems, more afflictions, and possibly persecution and more persecution at that. There might be problems that become longer problems, existing problems, existing afflictions.

So Psalmist experienced great affliction but he did not allow his chronic suffering to become an excuse for forsaking God. He did not make an excuse for that.

When chronic suffering drags on and you may feel like your life is collapsed and you're just barely as it were on a lifeline. How do you then respond? How would you respond? Though he bears affliction, his determination is not to forget God's law and God's word. He underscores the significance of active perseverance meaning consistency overall consistency that is on godliness and having a godly attitude towards things that we'll be discussing in the message tonight.

The psalmist stance calls to mind that those who seek the kingdom of God first, trusting in him first, even when circumstances grow dire. And we see in Matthew 6:33, the text that I'm referring to, you might not get all the things you want. Even if you're seeking God, you may not get all the things you want. But if you have communion with God and your basic needs, like it says in that passage of Matthew 6:33 of having clothing, having food and you have communion with God, that means more than having many things and not having communion with God.

Didn't Jesus say, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world," all the things of this world, "and lose his own soul?" That's not just for those that are lost and seeking salvation. This is for believers, too. It's an ongoing struggle. It's an ongoing battle. He says, "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Some things that come to my mind is work, hobbies all got quiet, right? Isn't that our problem? We go beyond here in America idolization of the basic needs, food and clothing. Although people still struggle with those things, this kind of luxury life that we have in America and attainment of more and more things is why I believe is a root problem of the spiritual condition we are in today in Christian and in Christianity in America today. We don't go to God first. We don't desire as a whole communion with God and just I'm okay with the basic things. I'm satisfied with the basic things as long as I spend plenty of my time in communion with God and spend as plenty of time in our work,

plenty of time in our hobbies.

Don't let your liberties don't let your liberties overtake God's word. Right?

The emphasis on affliction also sheds much light on a broader theme in scripture that God's people may face trials yet the divine promise of rescue remains. That is clear in scripture and we're going to go there. The psalmist reliance on God's law is a reminder for believers to cling to God's word in every storm. Not just the few storms, every storm. Believing that his precepts bring deliverance at the proper time, his timing, not our timing. No matter how severe the storm the storms are, the word the words of God is what will always and always anchor you.

One of the blessings of the Thessalonian church and why the apostle Paul overwhelmingly praises them with positive commendation rather than negative commendations or harsh rebukes or corrections like the Corinthians for example. One of the primary reasons is their prayer life. In fact, it's found in 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Pray without ceasing.

And as you recall, I shared it's a posture, a heart posture to always be prayerful. Everything that I'm doing in my relationships, whether you're single or whether you are married or you have kids, your relationships at work, your extended family, that you're prayerfully interacting with God the Father as you are spending time with people around you. And then also prayerfully considering those things that you have that God has given to you and that God will withhold giving you more so that you can spend more time with him in prayer. That's one of the things that they caught on.

Remember Apostle Paul had to, he left rather quickly. This is a very new church. They only got to spend a little time with Apostle Paul, but they took that and they ran with it as it were. And it's a wonderful thing. They were great witness.

In 2 Thessalonians 3:1, Paul writes, "Finally, brethren, pray for us." He said, he asked them to pray for us because they're praying. So, he's saying, "Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you." It's like what you're experiencing, I want more people to experience what you're receiving from God in communion with him.

So he constantly thank God for how their prayers and faith translated. Then their work, let me tell you, he said that their work was produced by faith. By faith they were trusting in God with their work. They were laboring not with

grief, not with burnout, but with love. I love that. God's love and love for others. And then they were able to endure not because they had a financial cushion, not because they had some kind of security in this world. No, they endured because they had hope in Christ.

May we be a church Calvary Road that we pray earnestly night and day as the Apostle Paul said that's what I did when I was with you. I prayed night and day with you. I showed you the example and you followed through that we would do that. We will be a people that are known again for prayer as I mentioned this morning and clears up so many things when we're communion with God. He gives us insights that we could not get from ourselves, from the world. Certainly not from the lost, right? We get it from God himself. And people should know that's the reason for the hope that's in us.

How can you spend so much time with God the Father when you have so many other things you can be doing? And then there's your reason of hope you can share with them. He shows me all things. I'm richly blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't need all these things. I just need him. I just need him.

So, with all that said, if you will, please stand out of respect for God's word. We're going to begin with verse 153.

"Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law. Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word. Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes. Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord: quicken me according to thy judgments. Many are my persecutors and mine enemies; yet do I not decline from thy testimonies. I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word. Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O Lord, according to thy lovingkindness. Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." This is God's word. You may be seated.

We're going to examine first verses 153 to 154. And we see here the appeal to God's compassion. Beginning with verse 153, he cries out, "Consider mine affliction, and deliver me." Consider, that is, look, look at my affliction and deliver me. You're the only one that can deliver me.

He's not asking God to merely here notice his pain. No, he is asking God to look upon his situation with compassion. There's compassion behind this because God is a God of compassion, isn't he? When he hears his Trojan cry, he will respond. He will. But do we have the posture of actually crying out to

him?

See, true faith assumes that for God to see is for God to act. So you should already know if he's going to see, he's going to act. But you have to go and seek him in order for him to act.

And so he bases his plea on a simple statement of trust here. He says, "For I do not forget thy law." Remember I mentioned he was consistent. He didn't forsake God in his afflictions. He didn't treat this like a pity party. He didn't take it personally. If people were afflicting him, it was them between God. So if it's them between God, then I also need to see it the same way. Me and God. Don't let someone get in the middle of that and cause you to forsake God.

You see, he's not coming with arrogance or human pride or manipulating God here. No, it's an expression of confidence in God's word and God's faithfulness. He asked the Lord to give him life. Throughout this psalm, I need life. I need life. Life. Life. I need spiritual life. You're the only one that can give me spiritual life. He asked the Lord to give him these things that are important ultimately for his soul.

And so this is the first stanza in which the petition is repeated three times. It's not a vain repetition here. Remember I mentioned he grows deeper and deeper and deeper in his crying out to God and his urgent cry becomes more and more heavy. You ever cry yourself so much that you can't cry anymore? It's kind of the picture of the psalmist. Just no more tears are coming out because he's just been pouring out to God. Now, this is obviously we're seeing a gradual increase of afflictions. And so, with the gradual increase of afflictions, he's crying more heavier to God.

Then we go into verse 154. We enter into a courtroom setting here and we're to picture now an advocate in this courtroom. And so verse 154 shows us that the psalmist is on trial against false accusers and cannot defend himself. And he does not want to defend himself. He knows if he tries to do this himself, he's going to ruin this. He goes, he prays, "Plead my cause. Plead my cause. I can't plead. I can't do this. This is a spiritual opposition. I can't see the spiritual. Father, you must come through for what you only you can see and what you can deliver for me."

So he's convinced that only the Lord can defend him. No one else. He asks him to speak on his behalf and redeem him from bondage. Isn't that a perfect picture of Christ? He is our perfect advocate with the father.

And so one of the benefits of going through Psalm 119, you see consistencies. And one of the things that we've been consistently seeing throughout this Psalm of 119 is he prays with greater and greater urgency. Have you noticed that in verses 154, verses 156, and 159, I want you to take particular notice in these verses, if you will look down with me in your Bible, the psalmist repeats same request three times in the stanza. Look at the words quicken me. Quicken me in verse 154. Quicken me in verse 156. Quicken me in verse 159.

So recall quicken me means to be revived to give one's life. You see as Christians we need to be in a perpetual state of revival. We're still dealing with the flesh. This is one of the things you're wrestling with is to stay alive spiritually and we need to constantly be revived and only Jesus our advocate can give us revival.

And I want you to notice those words quicken me. Those are like as it were the hub and it points you to what are you supposed to do? What is it you're asking for to quicken you. So that's what we're going to look at. We're going to see what is the things that we need to be quickened in our lives. Again, this is not vain repetition, but it's a desperate cry for God to quicken the psalmist and for us as believers in Christ, for someone who needs God all the time, to put him back on his feet, to put us back on our feet. We're not hooked up to a spiritual ventilator, as it were, and not walking close to God where we can't do anything for God because we're just barely making it.

And so with that, I look at John 10:10 as a text. The Lord Jesus said these words, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." That's what Satan is doing to us constantly. He wants to steal our joy. He wants to kill our spiritual lives. He wants to destroy us in our flesh. He wants to destroy what God is trying to do in our lives. He says, "I am come." Jesus is saying this, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." I want you to focus on that. More abundantly. So, there's something there of some life, but to have more abundance in your life.

Now, he's not talking about health. He's not talking about wealth. He's not talking about fame or reputation or success or even happiness. That's not the context of what Jesus is saying about life. He's saying in the context of your relationship with God the father. He has come so that I can be your advocate so that you can have more and more abundant communion with God the father. That's what Jesus is doing. He's praying on our behalf.

You know, John 17, the wonderful, great high priestly prayer. He's saying that they will not be of the world if they're in it, but they will not be of the world. He prays that for us that we will be sanctified in thy truth. Thy word is truth. That we grow in our relationship with God the Father in Christ through his word.

You want to be more sanctified. You want to be more holy. He's given you as believers in Christ opportunities to be sanctified in his truth because the Holy Spirit lives in you. That is the interpreter, the helper, the comforter that shows you God's word with spiritual illumination. You have new understanding. So why not take heed to his word? He's given you illumination. He wants to give you greater illumination. And he wants you to dig deeper into the riches of scripture, going into the minds as it were, and saying, "Wow, I didn't know there was this here. I didn't know that this was here. I must go deeper. Oh, there's still more. Oh, there's still more."

Do you have that desire? Or are you just satisfied with just surface knowledge without really having a knowledge of his will? The great, the depths, the heights, the lengths, the width of the surpassing understanding of Christ. You see, being right with God initially in our salvation, yes, but are you staying in a right posture with God the Father in your life as you're walking more closely with him? That is what abundant life is. That is what eternal life is.

After all, in heaven, who are we going to spend much time with? God the Father, Lord Jesus Christ, and all the saints that will be with us. So, this is a small picture of being here as a church body. Do you want to spend more time with God's people in prayer? Do you desire? Do you want to be here? You see, the lack of attendance is a symptom. The spiritual disease is a lack of cultivation of prayer, communion with God.

If you have communion with God, you will want to show up because he'll bring you close to his people. Hebrews 10:25, that I don't forsake the gathering of the people so that I will not fall into deceitfulness of sin. You see, that's the danger is to be isolated. I gave a whole sermon on that. The danger of isolation of a believer. There should be never a lone ranger Christian amongst us.

But this abundant life does not guarantee after all problemfree existence. 2 Timothy 3:12 says this, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." That word shall is a promise. Jesus said, "If you will follow me, you will also be persecuted." This is, after all, the words of the

apostle Paul. Oh, he had a full life of abundance and communion with God the Father, but he also had a full life of affliction. You cannot separate the two. Both are necessary.

And so Paul's personal summary of the sufferings is found in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27. And then in 2 Corinthians 4:8-10, after all, he said it to the Corinthians who just wanted the pleasures of God, but not the afflictions. So he shared it with the Corinthian church. You think you have because they were a rich church. I mean, they were living in a port city. They had a lot of things, but they lacked communion with God the Father. So he's like, "You know what? You don't understand Christianity here. You're going to suffer, but you're going to suffer for righteousness' sake. Isn't that wonderful? We could suffer for Christ because there will be times when your life is on the line because you are being attacked by those that don't want God in their lives. You get mocked, you get slain, you get persecuted for that."

But you see, God is always able to revive you. Always remember that. He will always keep you in a revived state so that you can be like the apostle Paul. It doesn't matter if I'm shipped, right? It doesn't matter if even demons attack me. No one shall separate me from the love of Christ. No one. That's a revived state to always be loving Christ. Loving what he can do to revive you.

See, God will never revive you. Here's a warning. God will never revive you if you think you can make it on your own. Are you relying on the arm of the flesh? We know the lost are, but as Christians, that's one of our battles, too. Depending on the arm of flesh, oh, I don't need to pray. Oh, I don't need to be with God's people. I can take care of this on my own. Watch. Be careful what you say. Don't let any idle words like that come out of your mouth. Because after all, what comes out of our mouth is starts with the heart where the issues of life come from. Right? Proverbs.

So you need to see how weak you are, not how strong you are in order for him to strengthen you. It's a danger to white knuckle your way through chronic trials or defend your own honor and your own strength. Cultivate instead a godly attitude towards self by humbling yourself before God, dropping your self-reliance and crying out to him in urgent prayer as you need to. My grace is sufficient for you. My strength is perfected in you. The words of the Lord Jesus to the Apostle Paul.

So when you realize you are offending God, you will always be humbled. Hopefully you're humbled before, not after. Do you know what I mean by

that? You will be humbled, but wouldn't you rather be humble before something bad happens? Before something happens because you were chastised by God the Father.

Again, the psalmist realized he could not defend himself. He needed someone to speak on his behalf. And he was convinced that only the Lord could defend him. And so he prays in verse 154. Let us look at verse 154 again. He says these words, "Plead my cause and deliver me, quicken me, revive me according to thy word."

Now we go from verse 154 to now verse 155 to 158. This is a whole section we're going to cover now at this time. Let's look at verse 155. We see the reality of wickedness.

Observe that due to sin, those that are lost don't expect to take moral responsibility and guilt. That's one of the signs that you can know that someone's not a believer. They don't want to take any moral responsibility. They don't want to take upon the guilt. Their hearts are so hard.

But verse 155 declares that salvation is far from the wicked because why? Look at the text. They refuse to seek God's statutes. They don't want to listen to God's word, God's instructions, God's commands. And so the issue is not that God cannot forgive here. Oh, he can forgive. But that people can be so far in rebellion and hardness of heart that they will no longer want to repent from their sin. That's the danger.

And that's why there's that passage, wonderful passage, today is a day of salvation. As long as your heart is still listening to God's word, wherever that may be for the lost, we ought not to lose our sense of the sinfulness of sin, especially as believers in Christ. This is one area that Satan deceives us. And we must watch our hearts to realize the sense of the sinfulness of sin. We need to constantly be renewed of the sense of the sinfulness of sin. After all, it leads to death. Spiritual death, physical death.

I haven't said this yet, but you see how the psalmist is consistently thinking about the enemies of God. Do you notice that he doesn't turn them off? He didn't say, "Okay, God's going to deal with it." No, he constantly is thinking about them in prayer. He doesn't dismiss them in their in his prayer life. He grieves over them. Remember that in the last message he grieves over them. Do we grieve over sinners not coming to the Lord Jesus Christ or are we going oh yeah let them they deserve that. Oh how merciless many of us can be in that with that kind of attitude. God is a God of mercy. There is new

mercies every morning. Great is thy faithfulness. Thank God we depend upon him not us.

You see, knowing full well their condition which we once were in those who remain lost is that they why they remain lost.

I could remember so clearly the Lord shows me over and over again. It's because I try to save myself in my own way instead of the way. All of us can relate to that before we came to Lord Jesus. Tried all different ways. But it was finally when we knew that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. But we know that no man comes to the father but by him. I can't go to him. None of you can go to him. He must do the drawing. And so we're pleading with God. God, you're the only one that can draw them to you. Not my strategies. No, only you. So I'm going to devote my time in prayer instead of strategizing. We should spend much time in prayer and we leave it to God for the results. We don't go, "Oh, I prayed so much so therefore he should." No, we leave the results to him and him alone. God the father will draw if he wants to. That's his business.

Next, I want us to examine another part in this text. Why salvation is so far from the wicked? Because salvation is found in the word of God. See, the essence of wickedness is the refusal to hear and believe and obey the word of God.

We can think of the parable of the sower. How the seed lands upon your heart. And so why you may stay lost is because maybe you're like that first seed. You don't you can't even understand it because the devil snatches away from your heart. Or like the second one where you receive it with joy, but then when persecution comes, oh, I didn't sign up for this. Or the third one, the riches of this world, the cares of this world. But the one that's the fourth, it falls on good ground and then you can bear the thirty and the sixty and the hundredfold in your inner life as well as in your outer life. And God is the one that helps us to bear fruit. We can't bear our own fruit. Another reminder, God must produce in us these qualities.

But I said, salvation is only found in the word of God. Where's the text about that? 2 Timothy 3:15 describes that the word of God is able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what we pray for.

So verse 156, we go now to anchoring ourselves in the mercy of God. Turning from human wickedness, the psalmist rests now in the divine character of

God. He says, "Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord." And then we see this instance, quicken me according to thy judgments.

You see, mercy means God withholds the punishment we deserve and extends then tender mercy instead of what we deserve. Like Psalm 103:13 says, "Like as a father pitieth," or has compassion for, "his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." There is a right sense of fear that God is watching us and how we relate to him and with others. And if he sees that while we're not going to him to receive mercy and therefore we're cut off and then we lack in extending mercy to other people, you know that he gives us tender compassion. He doesn't give us what we deserve but he will show us no you need my mercy and you need to extend mercy to other people. He'll always share his compassion in that way. But you have to fear him. You have to respect him. He watches you and he cares for you that you don't stay in this place of being merciless.

And so we as believers ought to thank God not only for those things he gives us but also what he withholds things from us. Amen. It's good that he withholds things from us because they may ultimately not be good for us.

Then we go to verse 157. Now he gets resolved but he's now under fire here. He has hostile adversaries pursuing him like relentless hunters as it were. They want to kill their prey. And that's us as Christians. But he declares, "Yet do I not be sidetracked from thy testimonies."

You see, it's very easy to be sidetracked when we suffer, isn't it? We don't want to think about suffering. You want to think about comfort. Oh, that's such a battle. I know it. I go through so many things. I think about suffering for so many things that I have no control over, by the way. And I just want to share that with you. If you're going through something you're going, I don't want to experience because I know I don't have any control. Good. God is in full control of that suffering. He's the one that's on the dial. Remember the refiner's fire. He puts on the fire. He puts on the fire for what? To purify you. But you have to allow him to purify you. You have to allow him to have you go through this suffering.

And in this age in which we live in with AI, I got to share this one thing. Some things don't come immediately. Some things our characters built over time. Don't try to find a solution online when the solution is God. And sometimes his trials therefore your testing of your character. You're going to give in to that to this when that was not the purpose of this suffering. So we must be

very careful that when we're suffering we know okay Lord help me to understand the suffering not to avoid it because every believer will also not only the afflictions will come but also the fire. Let us not be like the wood and the hay but the one that is refined and we are vessels to be refined. Thank God we're not wood, hay and stubble.

So let us not be sidetracked. Pray to understand your suffering. Be in communion with him. And if he doesn't give you an answer right away, be okay with that. Pray again. Pray again. There might be something in your heart that you don't want the answer. Do you understand what I'm saying? Your heart's not ready for what God wants to show you. So maybe you might have to come again with the more open heart. A wholehearted devotion. Do you remember have a wholehearted devotion to God?

I'm reminded of Paul in Romans 9:1-3. This is how I love his heart. Here he says, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh," that he would see more people come to know the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, the ones that are persecuting him. He's praying this. This is otherworldly, isn't it? The natural tendency is to fight back, to say, "Oh, I'm going to get this or that." He wants us to suffer right. He wants us to suffer, right? It's not our cleverness. It's a change of heart. Our hearts needed to be changed and God needs to change other people's hearts where there may be disagreements.

We should grieve over sin. Again, verse 158. He looks at the faithless around him, those that don't know Christ with deep distress and disgust, not because of what they did to him personally, but because they broke God's commands. You see that in text?

Never take things personally. If you do, you're going to be immature. You're not going to grow in the stature of Christ. So spiritual maturity looks like one verse 158. You grieve more and more when people slur things at you and mock you and cause suffering amongst you. The wrong that's done to you is not personal. It's their dealings with God.

Psalms 51 gives us that assurance. I have sinned against thee and thee alone primarily. Yes, you will have occasions to sin against others. But Jesus said to Apostle Peter, how many times am I supposed to forgive? Seventy times seven. So that you'll remember how many times you forgave the person.

That's how we should have in our godly disposition towards others that don't know Christ.

We're allowing God's word to settle in our hearts to expose the danger that's in our own hearts so that we can, as it were, Jesus saying, in order to remove things from other people, you got to remove the log out of your own eye. Don't let your conscience, don't dismiss what God is using in your conscience when he's pricking you by the Holy Spirit. Respond.

Our conscience is like an alarm system. It convicts us. Let us not be like what it says in the passage that our conscience be seared like a hot iron. You ever burn yourself and it becomes callous? You can't feel it anymore. That's not what we should do with our conscience. We should be sensitive to the Holy Spirit because you can grieve him. It says you can actually grieve the Holy Spirit. You can forsake him. We got to be sensitive to when he shows us things. It is a good thing. That's mercy. The Holy Spirit is mercy to us. He is mercy to us.

Cultivate a godly attitude towards sin. Cultivate a godly heart attitude towards sin when you're under pressure or when you're grieving over the sinfulness of sin and the rebellion of people around you that are not in Christ that you rest daily in God's mercy. That's how you do it. Rest in God's mercy.

Now, let's go on to verse 159 to 160. Here we see the affection over just a head knowledge of the word of God. The psalmist asked God to look not just at his affliction, what we saw in the previous verses, but here now he's asking, "God, continue to soften my heart. Continue to help me to cultivate a heart of compassion towards others and a greater and greater desire to know your word." He wants it at the heart level. Meaning the whole being.

So he says, "Consider how I love thy precepts." Oh, we've got to say that. Oh, how I love your word. Oh, I love your commands. Why I love your instructions. Do you remember when you didn't at one point?

But this is one of the assurances that you're a believer in Christ. You actually love his precepts. You love his precepts. You consider them. You look upon them on a daily basis. You can study the Bible, the danger of just with head knowledge without ever loving the one that wrote it, without loving the person who wrote. This is God's word after all. Again, communion with God with his word. Do you love what he is saying to you? A love letter to you, speaking directly to your soul and what you need to truly love scripture then without living it out is not real love.

You can say, "I love. I love. I love," but you're not actually following through with his precepts or his commands and not obeying. Then that's not true love. We know that with our physical earthly relationships. Oh, how careful we must be then with God the Father. Have a godly attitude towards scripture.

I love verse 160. He says, "The sum of thy word is truth." Everything he's saying from Genesis to Revelation, from this perspective on, from our position, we know Genesis to Revelation, right? All of it. The sum of it is all truth. That's how we should look at it. Not picking and choosing, but all of it. The whole counsel of God, every precept, every promise, every prophecy is entirely true without exception. You have to come to that. You have to remind yourself of that because he says then going on he says, "And every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." God has never had to retract his words.

You see, the reason we can trust scripture as objective truth is because it's eternal by nature. The heavens and earth shall pass away, but my words will never pass away. Jesus said, can never be changed because it has the very imprints of God's character. You're reading his character. He never changes. He never leaves you nor forsakes you. As long as you're constantly soaking in and abiding in his word.

I love 1 John 2:1 gives us good news here. "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." We're only righteous because of Christ. We can only come to the throne room of God because of Christ. And if we sin because we will sin. Not habitual sin, but we will sin.

Jesus did not merely point the way to life. No, he stepped into the courtroom. He took our condemnation on the cross and pled our cause with his own blood, his own shed blood. Let me accentuate that precious blood. He shed his ultimate fulfillment we see in Psalm 119. The living word who endureth our afflictions so that we could receive his abundant life. That's called the great exchange as many theologians puts it. There is no greater exchange than that. He takes our sin and he gives us life, abundant life.

We should always think about that thanking God for the glorious salvation we have in Christ Jesus. That's the kind of exchange that we should have instead of like what he said, what would we give in exchange for your soul in this life. Don't exchange anything except for what Jesus Christ can offer from the moment that you are saved and always reminding yourself of it.

Let me just end there. I think that's where we should end. Amen.

Let us go to the Lord in prayer.

Oh father, it is glorious to remind ourselves of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. Oh God, what pain, what suffering he had to endure. But like he said, Lord, father, it's such a wonderful thing what he said that the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross. He was thinking of us. Oh father, he saw us with joy so that the afflictions were not the main thing. It was us to be with him. Thank you father for this glorious salvation. Thank you for taking care of the most important thing which is our sin problem. And we found our sins to be saved. To be saved to be saved from sin that was picturing the nails on the hands and the feet and the crown that Jesus wore. Remind us of those nails. You remind us of the crown of thorns that he endured. And that we will remember the words, it is finished. We don't have to do anything to receive your favor, but it is you that gives us favor. From our salvation all the way to glorification. From justification to glorification, we live from grace upon grace upon grace upon grace upon grace upon grace. Thank you for that, Lord.

I pray for those that are lost among us. Father, I pray that they would understand today is the day of salvation. As long as today, I pray that you would bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ so that they can know what it means to be saved from their sin. Please bless the sin. We'll thank you in Jesus' precious name. Amen.