

Consider as a church how much time, mental energy, and emotional bandwidth you have spent just this week arguing about things that will not ultimately matter in eternity. Consider the interactions you have had recently. How many focused on fleeting temporary matters versus those that are lasting and have eternal significance in your life as well as in someone else's life.

This world and its people outside of Christ face the reality that right now they are currently living separated from the God of the Bible. No connection to eternal life, no connection to conversations that have eternal value. And think about this, that is just on the temporal side. Think of the eternity, the emptiness, the no eternal life, no eternal value conversations that will go on for eternity.

This is weighty, is it not? Everyday small talk, the temporal things, the talks of our hobbies, the politics that change and go, the temporary comforts that rob our energy that God has given us to steward. And we use that energy to speak of things and work on things that have no eternal value, no eternal significance.

The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, however, is a whole different thing, is it not? It is life-giving in our words and in our actions. Every time we are living out the gospel, when we are either sharing it with our words or sharing it with our lives, there is eternal significance in what comes out. Do you think of it that way? Do you think of how significant your words are when you speak about the gospel and you live out the gospel?

We as Christians have the awesome privilege to share this gospel on a constant basis. What is holding us back? It is a good question to ask. What is holding you back from sharing the gospel verbally as well as nonverbally? When we stay silent about Christ out of fear that is a lot of times right out of fear of man or the second evil is laziness, just laziness. The alternative is to choose then to seek after to entertain people.

I spoke a little bit about this on Wednesday that entertainment is the substitute that the devil uses for the joy of the Lord. It is a substitute for real joy in the Lord. As Christians, we have to be always careful of what we are entertaining into our minds and into our hearts, into our lives because the world is being entertained right now. And they do not realize that entertainment will come to a stop one day. And then they will face God, the true God, not the one that they imagined, but the true God that they will be held accountable to.

And this is my call as a pastor. I need to put before everyone's mind that one day you are going to face God. And I am here to prepare you to meet God. And we are in a state of constant preparation. Did you know that? It is not like, oh, I will prepare when I am feeling like I am going to die or life circumstances change so dramatically, then I will prepare myself. No, we are on a constant plane of preparing ourselves to meet God.

That is my responsibility. That is every Christian's responsibility. And I must share that constantly with my brothers and sisters in Christ because a temporary pleasure, yes, the entertainment will bring temporary pleasure. Absolutely. Sure. But here is the thing. It will never

satisfy the soul and provide eternal life. Never.

So, just like in Bible times, which we are going to go over this morning, we will go to the Bible. We live in a noisy, highly opinionated world where everyone wants to fight over political reform, personal genealogies, and engage in pointless, speculative interpretations of scripture. Notice I said speculative. But Paul writes to Titus with an urgent warning that spiritual energy spent on foolish conflict is spiritual energy stolen from good works. Namely, sharing the gospel and living out the gospel. In other words, more things you care about in this world steals away the opportunity to share the gospel and live out the gospel.

Paul is going to be wrapping up in this particular section we are going to be going over in this letter to his young associate minister partner Titus on the island of Crete and again I emphasize this over and over again. Crete was a culture similar to the world that we are living in today. Nothing has changed because sin has not changed. And it is a world that is full of deceit, full of self-indulgence, again, entertainment and human pride.

I will wait to talk about the important things later, thinking that you determine the time and day to meet God. That is our own foolishness, is it not? And we saw in verses 4 to 7 of chapter 3 of Titus that Paul just delivered a breathtaking glorious summary of the gospel, did he not? Full of grace and mercy of God and how God saved us not by our works of righteousness. And remember what I said there that living in a way that aligns to his perfect standard. None of us can live to his perfect standard. That is what righteousness means. But we foolishly think we can meet his perfect standard. That is what sin does. But God says in that particular section of Titus that it was according to his mercy, right? We could not rescue ourselves, right, from sin. And I gave you the illustration of us drowning in the ocean and someone had to rescue us. We could not go and rescue ourselves.

And then I explained last week from the text that God works in us once we are saved that it is not done that we are safely on the shore and we now are living according to his ways. Now we are washed in regeneration and I described it as it is new birth that it is described as new birth rather that is given by God. You cannot regenerate yourself. You cannot birth your own life again. No, just like your own physical birth, you cannot regenerate yourself spiritually, but rather God is the giver of spiritual life as well as physical life. Instead of us foolishly thinking we can somehow give to God, no God must give to us and he must give again and again and again that spiritual life. And then I said also going on the text that he also renews us of the Holy Ghost. That is meaning an ongoing transformative work of the gospel living inside of you. Meaning Christ living inside of you. He is renewing you, renewing you, restoring you, reviving you. All kind of similar words.

And so the Holy Spirit continues to do his ongoing work. Again, God working in us, not us working for God. And how we view works is crucial to understanding the gospel, is it not? So now we are going to look at verse 8. You can turn there with me because now Paul's going to turn the corner in the text. If that glorious gospel of what he summarized so gloriously in verses 4 and 7 is true, then the question must then be asked, how then should we live? How then

should we live based on the glorious gospel? So if you will please out of respect of God's word, stand with me as we read from verses 8 to 11 with the understanding, how then should we live? Beginning in verse 8, this is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. But avoid foolish questions and genealogies and contentions and strivings about the law, for they are unprofitable and vain. Verse 10. A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject knowing that he that is such is subverted and sinneth being condemned of himself. This is God's word. You may be seated.

Let us take these verses phrase by phrase because there is so much here to look at. Let us start off with the beginning phrase. This is a faithful saying. Paul right away anchors us as believers in Christ, instructing us here that in that we can absolutely in all trustworthiness of the gospel of what was stated in verses 4 and 7. This is a faithful saying that we can secure ourselves in what he is going to say afterwards. That we can secure ourselves and trust God in his word completely meaning with your whole heart. In fact, you should not trust anybody with your whole heart and the only one is the Lord Jesus though the Lord Jesus is the only one that you are to trust with your whole heart in terms of salvation and your whole life. And then he goes on and he says this phrase affirm constantly. What is it that we are supposed to affirm? This is a command here. So, we are going to see a series of commands starting with this phrase, affirm constantly. He tells Titus as he is writing to him to preach the gospel truths repeatedly. Repeatedly. That is the word constantly. And without apology. We should never apologize when we share the gospel because it is in the affirmative. We can affirm that these are truthful sayings, faithful sayings. The true way to produce any moral goodness, meaning our character, our conduct, is by constantly sharing the gospel in our lives. That is the only way that any real good things come out of our mouth and out of our actions and our conduct. And every believer can affirm this, right? Nothing that you are doing that is good is from anything in this flesh that we call flesh, this body of ours. Nothing good dwells in us. It is only because God is the giver and he keeps giving and giving and then we are he has opened our hearts to now be a channel to flow out. Does that make sense? We are just a channel of blessing. We only give what he gives to us. And we can secure ourselves in that understanding because you remember a time when your heart was shut. God was giving to you and you said no. God was giving to you. No. God was giving to you. No. And then one day something miraculous changed and your eyes of your heart as Ephesians puts it is opened. And now the block, the barrier has been destroyed. He destroyed it. And now suddenly, oh, there is life. I am saying yes to God. Yes. Not all the time, but in the constancy of our lives, right? We are. And we can affirm of these things that is clearly on display inside as well as on the outside. When we are sharing the gospel, we are going, yeah, this is good. Yeah, I love sharing this. There is it is all good. Every time you share the gospel, whether it is visible or invisible with your words, it is all good. It is all good. You see, morally, morality rather, apart from the gospel offers a false hope. Anytime you share anything good is a false hope because it is based on a false premise. Here rather with the gospel we have a true foundation that we can affirm understanding that we are coming from a place of God and not longer on man. So then that hope as it was said in previous verses this hope is guaranteed just as our salvation is guaranteed. What we share, we can share with full confidence and guarantee that it can do the lifechanging work that was done in us. And this is

how you know and you can share more in affirmative because something has changed in you. You can share with someone in the same way. And it is not mechanical. It is lifegiving. And again, you can just give all glory to God in that because ultimately if you base it on ourselves, the false hope, it is unrealistic. You are not your own savior and it is ultimately unattainable because you have to be perfect in God's standing. No sin. No sin. That is why it is a false hope.

Now, let us go on the next phrase. Based on what the gospel has done in us and continue to be lived out in us, we are to carefully maintain good works. Okay, now we are talking about works. Before the gospel, it did not mean anything, but now it has a meaning because God has now put himself in place of the good works in our lives. You see, he says to be careful. Let us just dive in and understand what this word means because the world has their way of saying what careful means. Let us go back to what the Bible says about what careful means. This is what it means. It means to be thoughtful, intentional, and deliberate. Good works do not happen by accident. Another way of saying it, no, they require a focus, an intentionality, and thoughtful planning, i.e. praying. Are you prayerfully thinking about when you are sharing the gospel? Very prayerfully following up with prayer, beginning with prayer and sometimes in the middle of the conversation in prayer. That is I find I can do that after some maturity in my life and also ending with prayer. Can you do that? Are you leaving God out of the picture? Again, affirming if God is working in your life, you depend on him 100 percent. There is nothing good in you. Do not depend on yourself. That is what he is saying. Be careful to maintain good works according to what you have affirmed. You see that? You see, am I doing this work, this good work for me to build up me, or is it to build up Christ, exalt Christ, and glorify God? And you got to be in prayer to do the latter. Amen. Because in your flesh, you do not want to. That is just the honest truth. And that is why we can foolishly change our conversation to entertaining people instead of actually talking about real stuff that matters for eternal value. What is clearly on display is another way of saying it. And then he goes on and says in this phrase to maintain. What are we maintaining then? This literally means to stand in front to lead to conduct oneself as a leader. Basically take lead in the conversation. Take lead in the conversation when you are speaking to a lost person. Obviously, if you are Christians, you know, we are leading together. Amen. I mean, we hope to, but when you are leading in a conversation with someone who is lost, you do not be passive in this. You lead with grace, with mercy, be gracious, be merciful. We looked at that in the past in the previous verses. It is building upon this. Believers are not meant to lag behind the world in kindness and generosity. Integrity. No, we are at the forefront of all of this. In our kindness, in our generosity, right? And in our integrity, we are commanded to take the lead in good works. Do you think of that in your life? Or do you go, no, I cannot do this. Who is saying that? That is your flesh. I cannot do this. No, no, no. See, you are depending on yourself. But if you are depending on God, you can say, yeah, I can maintain it by Christ strength. Absolutely. Who are you depending on when you are maintaining good works? You are constantly take the lead. And does it not strengthen you? This thought came to my mind when I was thinking of this part of the phrase. Does it not strengthen your faith going like, yeah, I cannot do this in the flesh, but I can do it in Christ. And when you do it in Christ, how that strengthens your faith. Like, yes, he follows through. He follows through with his words, his promises, and his commands. He will never tell you something that he will not give you the strength to do. And so, he says, take the initiative. Take the initiative. Watch what I do in your

life. Just trust me all the way through. I know you are going to fear things. I know you are going to try to be lazy and back out. No, there is a time to be bold. And when you are sharing the gospel, you have to be bold. When the timing is right, when you are ready to do it, God will strengthen you. He will 100 percent strengthen you and he will help you fulfill his commands. He always backs up his words. And the thing is in our flesh, we do not, do we? And so this is where it strengthens their faith. He is not like us. He follows through every time he says a promise every time. And then he goes on good and profitable unto men. So these good works do not justify us before God. We saw that in Titus 3:5. Let me just repeat that. Right. Not by works of righteousness which we have done. No. Wrong view of good works there. But here he says they are profitable to who? To our neighbors. And who are then our neighbors? It is every person you encounter. Every person that is your neighbor. It is not just the person next door living next to you. No, that is not that is the world. Okay. No, the neighbor is someone you are walking and you saw in the Good Samaritan. Oh, I need to help that person. You do not go around the person. No, you go and help that person. Everyone you encounter, you do it this way. Watch how God performs. So every person you encounter, that includes both lost and saved people, believers in Christ. Yes. And strangers and even here it is your enemies. Oh yeah. That is included in your neighbors. It is all inclusive. It is all inclusive. And they demonstrate here when we live according to good works to our neighbors, our faith is tested. And it is tested by works. And here it is. It will determine if you are going to glorify yourself or glorify man. It will extend to actual tangible help in a hurting world or withdrawing from helping a hurting world. With these three brings true satisfaction and joy to your souls and it does to mine. And that is why I can share in this part confidently when I have followed through. He has been backing me up every single time. I do not analyze what is going on with the words. I just got to take care of what I am sowing. He takes care of the results. He takes care of the results. A lot of times we focus too much on the results, do we not? The pragmatic view. What are the results, right? What are the results? No, do not focus on the results that excludes faith. Trusting God. Trust God when you sow his words. He will provide the results all the time. Sowing and reaping principle. So faith in the gospel is a powerful engine. Do you think of the gospel as something extremely powerful? The words, the actions in your life. How do you view the gospel? Because it is powerful. There is power in the cross as Paul puts it. I do not want to diminish this power, right? Good works are like the wheels of a car that moves the gospel forward. An engine running in neutral, meaning there is no works in your life, sharing the gospel. It is like an engine running in neutral, making just a lot of noise, a lot of things coming out of this mouth, but it goes nowhere. It goes nowhere. No traction, just spinning around. That is why applying your faith in practical ways is essential for spiritual growth. Meaning every healthy church focuses on three biblical foundations. Number one, how is your prayer life? How is your prayer life? How much do you pray before you do something? Right? A lot of times you do something and then we pray, oh, I messed up here, Lord. I messed up here. Yes, this is an ongoing struggle of us. But how much do we pray for everything that we do? Everything, the small and the big. And then discipleship. And then discipleship. How are you discipling each other as brothers and sisters in Christ? How many of the one another's that are commands in scripture, by the way, are you doing amongst each other? Not just here when you are hearing me. Obviously, you cannot do that. It is after you hear a message. What are you doing after the message? What are you doing after every single message? Do you take anything and actually apply what I say? And then third, the great

commission. The great commission goes to say not just us but to across to all nations. Are you thinking about the lost people, not just here in our community, but around the whole world? And that is why I love sharing the missionary stories of what is going on. It is important not just to think so focused on ourselves, but to broaden our horizons and look at what is going on. That is what Jesus wants us to do. And we love when there is disciples being made right in Christ in other parts of the world. And we have some part in that. Have some part in that. So these are the ways that we can practically essentially work for spiritual growth in our lives and in others. Good works make the invisible power of the gospel to display the visible gospel to a watching world. And meaning that the true gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ did not just merely speak words, but it showed it showed in the life of Christ in the way he lived out what he said. Let me just remind you what Jesus taught to his followers of Christ in Mark 10:45. These are his own words. He said these words, for even the son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many. He was not just speaking about himself. He was saying, this is your model for yourselves. I am going to show you how to model this out. He defined what true humility is. Is by serving, not to be served. Do you see humility that way? That is true humility. How are you serving? How are you serving your brothers and sisters in Christ? How are you serving the lost community? See, it is thinking and putting others needs first before yourself, acting as a servant. Do you see yourself as a servant of Christ? That you lower yourselves constantly so that you may build other people up. Not build yourself up, build other people up. That is a healthy church. That is a healthy church. He was modeling this out for all the apostles, disciples, and later on us. See, salvation is by grace alone. Absolutely. God is the giver of all good things starting with salvation in Christ and the Holy Spirit living in us. But grace is never alone. He does not want us to just receive all these good things. Think of like a child that is giving gifts after gifts after gifts. At some point, there is only so much you can receive and still be satisfied. It is like eating a chocolate bar. It is good, tastes good, but you keep eating that chocolate bar. It should make you sick that you are receiving all these things and you see people hurting around you. They are so focusing on the gifts instead of the giver. Like I want other people to receive what God is giving. How can I just keep letting go of what I am receiving from God? You can be your own stumbling block by focusing too much on the gifts instead of the giver. See, you cannot earn your way into God's family. No one can. We cannot adopt ourselves into God's family. But once you are adopted by God's grace again, he gives us the adoption. You are now in God's family. You are now in his family. Your name, your last name has changed. You are Christ follower. Your life then must bear the family resemblance namely Christ. Namely Christ who brought us into this family. And so Mark 10:45 is for all believers in Christ. Ask yourself, am I known in my workplace, in my neighborhood, or even within this church family, that I am leading out of this that they you are marked like a servant. You just love serving. You just love serving. You want to hear what other people are going through. You are not so quick to share, oh, look at my life. Everything is falling apart. Oh, woe is me. Or do you go, I am good. I have God as my creator. I have Christ as my strength. I have the Holy Spirit living in me to empower me to live out the gospel. What else do I need? What else do you need? You do not need anything else. You already have what is absolutely needed for your soul. Everything else is extra. So are you leading out of this practical way of living or are you just keeping step with just oh just trust God when things turn around? Are you waiting for a circumstance to change or are you depending on what God gives to you? You ought to be

dissatisfied by living in a way that you want things to change externally in order to validate internally. No, it always works out this way. Actually, God validates things internally first and then an external validation. As a pastor, I must have a desire to be a pastor first and then the external confirmation is, hey, am I helping the lost? Am I helping those that are Christians? Instead of going, oh, let me validate. Look how many people I saved. Oh, look at the people are bring yeah, that is why I am a pastor. No, that will be a mess. And you see that mess all over this country. The prosperity gospel. Look, you are rich. That is why you are a believer. No, that is external reversed. No. So again, are you good internally? Are you good in Christ? And now you are just going, yeah, I am affirming this externally. You see that? You see how important these phrases are in our lives? You ought to be dissatisfied again that you are representing a great savior and almighty God in your life. Do not shrink God. Do not diminish the saving work of Christ in your life. Always remember yourself. You have a great savior and you have an almighty God behind your back. Who else do you need to validate you externally? No one. No one.

He goes on, he says, but avoid foolish questions and genealogies and contentions and strivings about the law, for they are unprofitable and vain. So the first phrase immediately should draw your attention, but avoid. But avoid literally means to stand around or turn yourself around to step away. Step away in the conversation. A lot of times you get so caught up in the conversation, just stick around. No. When you see a turn in the conversation, all right, can we turn around, talk about something else? Or you know what? If we are going to just do this dialogue, let us just come back to this. I am going to step away. That is the wise thing to do. That is what it means to avoid. It is an active, decisive turn that Paul tells Titus, do not engage. Do not enter into the ring as it were. Do not entertain the debate. Do not have fun with this. There is nothing to fool around with. This is serious. If you are talking about the gospel and there is a change in the conversation, you are the one that is leading in the conversation. You have the greatest news. That person does not know the gospel truly. You are talking about the most important thing in the person's life. Do not diminish it by talking about something else. Hold that conversation. Ask God's help. Pray for God's help in that conversation. God will be with you if it is for that person to hear the gospel at that time. And you have the plan to pray ahead of time or pray in the middle of a conversation or you have an opportunity to slip away. You do not have to keep going on. God will bring another person if that person needs to be saved. God will give another opportunity. It is not dependent 100 percent on you. But if it is at that moment and God urges you keep going on this conversation, maybe that is God speaking to you that you are maybe you are the last person that needs to that they need to hear the gospel. We never know who it is, but we can know if you are constantly sharing it and someone actually goes, oh, I understand what you are saying. I see it. I see it. God, open my eyes to this. I see the good thing what you are talking about now. I did not know that before. Continue. Oh, then you have a great conversation there. Amen. And so he says, do not entertain debate. Just you have the plan ahead and be in God's plan. And then verse eight, be careful. And here are the four distractions to avoid. Let us go. I stayed too long in the text here. Four distractions. Number one, avoid foolish questions. These are meaning speculative controversies. Controversies, that is the key here, that are foolish, that have no bearing on bringing glory to God. But look at how smart that guy is. Or look at how clever, he figured it out. Look at he figured it out. No, turn away from those conversations. Walk away from those conversations. Next, genealogies. Endless

speculations over family lineages. Look at who I come from. Non non non I will not go into that one right now or extra biblical mythologies you know there are Bibles that have extra biblical context I will not go through all of them because there is a lot but anything that is outside of the Old and New Testament turn away from those conversations slip away next contentions these are heated disputes. Now the if these are conversations that are really heated, you are going at it not just verbally but emotionally. There is anger behind this. There is hostility behind this whether from the other person or coming out of you and that is when you know got to watch out. You step away in the conversation or you walk away because all that does is make a hot head and a cold heart. Right. The last one, strivings about the law. These are what you still need to do in order to earn God's favor. Anything that has to do with earning God's favor, slip away, walk away. The Old Testament, okay, here is a lot of misunderstandings here. The New Testament is fulfilling the Old Testament in Christ. Christ fulfilled the Old Testament. You did not fulfill it. I did not fulfill it. No one, no priest, no Levites, none of them. Christ was the only one that fulfilled the law. Always remember that. Do not let anyone get yourself in a quarrel around those things. Do not let anyone stir you up. That is what strivings are. Stirring up again, boiling within you. And we saw that in Titus chapter 1 verse 10 that the circumcision party. Remember that you got to circumcise yourself to bring favor to God. No, that is the Old Testament. We are in a new. We are now circumcised of the what? The heart. The heart. So who insisted gentile believers to keep all these Mosaic laws and rights to truly be right with God? It was the non the closed heart believer. Not the believer, the non-believer, right? A closedhearted non-believer. This is not a believer in Christ. So these are the four big distractions we must turn away or step away. Then he goes on and he says, these are all unprofitable and vain, which is a direct contrast to the good and profitable that we saw in verse eight. Did you see that? These are all unprofitable. They bring no profit to your soul or to someone else. And they are all just empty chatter. It is all empty. Goes nowhere. Goes nowhere. Just think of the hamster wheels just spinning around, spinning around. You are getting nowhere with this. It is unprofitable. Think of it as your words have like an investment. Is it bringing a good return back to God? Is the return being invested in a way that brings glory to God? So, are you a profitable person or an unprofitable person? Let us go on and understand how we must protect the energy. And I mean by this, the spirit of God that dwells in us energizes us to do that which is truly pleasing to God. Remember, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, they are all one. They are all working together for our good and for their glory, right? And so we need to consider, God, help me to use the energy of speaking and living out my life in a way that brings profit and not unprofitable to people. That the words will be rich and full and actually bring growth instead of wasted and empty and death. And you pray, God, help me. Help me. Help me what comes out of these word of this mouthpiece that you have created. Help me to use what it dwells in me for your glory and for your honor. That will be focused on you and help me to disengage when it is not about you. Help me to disengage when it is not about you. Refuse to trade your eternal calling for temporal arguments meaning steward your energy well. Ask God to help you steward your energy well. Help you to really use what God has given to you. Right? We conclude with verse 10 and 11. We are not going to go so carefully phrase by phrase here, but we are going to go through the text. So, let me read verse 10 again. And we are going to also read verse 11 again. A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject knowing that he that is such is subverted and sinneth because rather being condemned of himself. Let us focus in here. We got

to first understand what is a heretic right? What is a heretic to understand what he is instructing Titus here of what to do with the heretic. That is what he is the context. So let us define what is a heretic in the biblical text. It means this. It means someone who has a poor understanding of God and Christ. Okay. So is it aligned to scripture? Is this validated in what the gospel produces? Not by works of my hands but by God's hands. It refers it refers to someone who is factious meaning that he just this person just loves to divide the word of God meaning thing drawing things out of context and also dividing his people dividing the word of God wrongly dividing people wrongly. This is where poor understanding of God and poor understanding of Christ does. Someone who is schismatic just loves to divide scripture the wrong way and loves to divide people for their own selfserving gain and intentionally drives and wedges things into the local church. The speculations, the things that causes friction, that causes people to be unloving. Because they have no love of Christ in them. They can only produce this out of their mouths. See, this is the default sinful man. So avoid these people, these heretics. And by the way, it is done graciously. It is done graciously. Watch what Paul instructs Titus. Paul prescribes a merciful stepbystep process in how to deal with the heretic. He gives a first warning. You see that? Then a second warning, meaning stick with what you are talking about. Okay? Did you say this? Okay. How are you dealing with this? Okay. Second time, do you really want to go with this? That is the second warning. Do you really want to go with this? Do you really want to fall through dividing the church? Do you really want to be unloving? Do you know this? Do you know what the consequence is? The second is like, do you know the consequence of what you are doing? I know the first time maybe it is some emotions going on, but let us settle the emotions. Let us address the consequences here. It is kind of like that in the context. Really think about what you are doing here. Do not think of this triv. So that is the way we are to warn people. God designs space for correction. Allows space for repentance, turning away from their sinful speech and conduct and ultimately wants life in the person. Hey, this is not lifegiving what you are doing here. It is not lifegiving. You see, we got to first off address that this is in the context of how Jesus tells the church to deal with things in Matthew 18 15-17. Right? First, go to the person oneonone. Second, bring two or three witnesses. Next, lay it out before the whole church body. This is how we are supposed to deal with the heretic. Maybe they were careless. Maybe they were careless. Remember, they were going through something and just they said something just erroneously out of emotion, out of weakness. Let us give them a chance or her a chance. Again, we are displaying God. Amen. We are displaying Christ and how he said to his disciples to deal with people, not us. So, what do you do? Consider backtracking step by step. Okay? Where did this come from? Why are you talking this way? Why are you acting this way? It is a good place to start, is it not? And then out of that, hopefully the person comes to their senses and going, oh, yeah. I was angry. You know what? I was weak at that moment. Please forgive me. That is what you hope the first time. But if they go, no, I really actually meant it. Okay, you really meant it. All right, let us deal with the consequence then. This is what is going to happen. It is going to affect this person and affect that person. Do you see that? If it is bad in the context of how scripture puts it, it is like a fire. We need to put that fire out. It is dangerous. It is going to hurt a lot of people. Do you want to go on with this? And if they see that yes, I want to go on with this. Okay, then we quickly deal with the situation. Before it is slow and then there is a quick, okay, let us cut off. It is like fire. Let us not deal with this. That is how we are to do it step by step with validations along the way. You see, if the person just wants to go on accepting

their ways of doing things and going against ultimately God's word and how we are to live as God's people, that person is a heretic. That is it. We let the person go and hopefully they deal with the situation in the world as it says in Matthew 18 and they turn away from it and go, you know what? Why did I turn in the first place? That is what you hope to desire when they are at that stage. But I must go on. We got to reject them. The goal is for the person to see how much they are missing out by themselves. By themselves, without the correction, without the help, without, hey, the gentle love and the care that we have for you. That is what we want as believers in Christ dealing with the heretic. Look at what you are missing out on on God's blessing. You see, if you had cancer, would you deal with cancer lightly? If you really knew you had cancer, someone really exposed it. He saw the charts and you are like, that is cancer. And you go, yeah, you know what? I am okay with living with that. That is how foolish it is with arguments and being destructive with our words. It is like cancer. Do you see how bad it is in the consequences of this? It is like cancer. It will bring death. It will bring death. Heretics bring death. That is their goal. And they condemn themselves. Notice in the text, they condemn themselves. We do not condemn them. You see that? Pay attention to that. They condemn themselves with God's word and how they are dealing with God's people. You do not deal with God's people this way. Let the word of God, let them their actions prove that they are condemning themselves. And it is a good thing for me as a pastor. I do not have the power, the force to do anything on my own basis. I got to go and bring in the other leaders and go, hey, this is what is going on. What do you think about it? Am I wrong here? Am I seeing this wrong? But if there is agreement, okay, let me do this. I will deal with it. If I am wrong and I do this in a processed way then I will be corrected. Someone is going to be corrected in the conversation. This is important because we must guard church purity and church unity. This is all under church unity. United in Christ and protecting the gospel. Amen. We are protecting the gospel verbally and non-verbally. So, we must this is an area to affirm constantly to be encouraged. Yes, it is hard dealing with heretics, but do not just focus on those things. Go back to remember what you affirm and what you are supposed to do constantly. A lot of times we get stuck on this one individual situation and it stops us from affirming constantly the gospel, does it not? So that is another thing we need to be very careful of. Yes, it is this problem, but it is temporal. There is a process where we are going to deal with this. But let us not forget, we got to affirm constantly the gospel in our actions because that is lifegiving. This is not lifegiving. That is. So I need keep encouraging you brothers and sisters in Christ. Keep affirming the gospel. Amen. Go and share the gospel. Continue living and see how your strength wherever you are. If you are weak right now, you will be strengthened in your faith. You will see now how God is giving you so much. He is waiting to give to you right now, but you are withholding it because you are not doing what God is asking you to do. Simple as that. So I want to keep encouraging, go out, make disciples of Christ, be discipled by Christ, by other believers. Go and share the gospel and evangelism. You have opportunities to do that in our church. We have tracts over there. We have Myrtle Avenue. We have once a month opportunities to do some witnessing together as a church. But you have your own personal evangelism, do you not? Meaning informally. Do you have to wait for the church to tell you what to do? Or do you have so much of that desire, that zeal that comes from God that you do not have to have anyone to tell you what to do because you just want to go and do it? That is a healthy disciple of Christ. That is a healthy disciple of Christ. Those are just the minimum. You understand? That is not the maximum. You want to be

maximizing yourself for God because you are maximizing God giving you more. And you will never live in scarcity. You will never live like the world, oh, worrying about this crisis and worrying about what is going on over here and oh my goodness, everything is falling apart. You will not live like that as a healthy believer in Christ because you will have such a relationship with Christ and the believers that those things are peripheral. They are not at the forefront of your mind. And you will see how God really is good. Not just saying it, but living it. That is how we want to be as believers. And we want to show to the lost world how good we have it, right? Again, not pointing to ourselves, but pointing to the giver that waits for them to be connected to the giver, too. Because right now, they are separated. Do you see that? They are separated. You were once separate, but now you are connected to the vine, Christ, to God. They are not. So what they are talking about and living out, it is all a lie. Not living in truth like we are. Do not we want to share the truth to them? Not just in our words, but in our deeds. So they would ask, what is the hope that is in you? Tell me. I do not have this kind of hope. I need this kind of hope because all these things are happening in my life. I do not know how what is this? Why is this happening? And you go and share the gospel. It is because of sin. It is because of sin in your life. You have no power to overcome your sin. Only way you are going to have that is trust Christ as your personal savior and lord. Save you from your sin and then pour in his spirit so that you now can overcome your sin. Before that you will never overcome your sin. Let me pray. Let me pray for us that we would live in such a way. Oh father, there is so much to the gospel. There is so much to share. There is so much to live out. And Lord, I just pray that we would be a people of God that actually display this in our words and our deeds and a more consistent basis that we would affirm constantly our lives. God, give us this focus. Give us the strength. Give us the zeal, Lord, that can only come from you. Father, I could only do so much, Lord. You know I need your help, Lord. Revive your people, God, who are once alive, now something has happened in their life or they need to be revived. God, do this mighty work in their lives. Father, I pray that you would bless our church in this way and also bless those that are here that are outside of Christ that maybe something that I heard from your word, God, not my word, your word that has brought some life where there was no life that you would bring life more into that place in their life and show them they just need to turn to Christ and no longer resist him and trust him with their whole heart. God, maybe they are saying, I can maybe partially trust in him and trust this world. Lord, give them the full power of the gospel fully saved in one savior that they are saved from all sin when they trust this savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. And then Lord that they would sense the Holy Spirit living in them where their conversations are now completely changed around to good profitable full of life things and they can go and say thanks be to God for he is a wonderful and almighty God and I have the Lord Jesus Christ as a great savior of my soul. Father, please work in this way. We thank thee for all that you do. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.