

Chapter 1

Passage: Titus 1:1

Title: According to the Faith

Summary: Paul starts this letter (epistle) with the words “according to the faith”. Today we start our study, our situations, our week, our new year in that base (F-A-I-T-H: For All I Trust Him).

Titus 1:1 (NKJV) ¹ Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Titus 1:1 NKJV) Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,

Paul begins his letter (we call epistle) in verse 1 saying, “according to the faith”

As I prepare this message, the whole country, the whole state, the whole county, the whole region, is under a wave of the coronavirus (omicron variant). This virus (omicron) is showing itself to be one of the most, possibly will prove out to be the most, contagious virus in the last 100 years on the earth. It is surely not the way anyone thought their yearend rest, fellowship, travels, and celebrations was going to be; as many homebound, tired, fatigue, nausea, and virtual church.

No one really has the answers to all these things of the pandemic, that much is obvious with their continual changing of guidance and the likes; and I know I don't have the answers..... but I do know I have “The Answer” – Faith (F-A-I-T-H) (For All I Trust Him). I am not giving some quip, Christian-cliché, but something I truly believe. Although not what I/any of us wanted for our holiday, but I truly believe this, and have confidence in this, that God is on the throne, even in the midst of this fallen world. Many things I don't understand in a fallen world and a sovereign God, but that is why it is Faith, believing He is a good and sovereign God in even the midst of what I don't understand.

I am not making a prophetic statement, I am not prophesy thus says the Lord, but I feel God is doing something good in the midst of this week and this wave. Natural immunity? – maybe. Herd Immunity that brings this to an end? – possibly. Immunity that prepares the body for the next variant. Well how about, slowing down, family time and closeness, appreciation and thankfulness for family when faced with being separated and isolated from them, appreciation for the assembly of the believers, the gift to serve, the treasure to fellowship, appreciation for health, thankfulness for just the simple things in life that are free – I can say yes to all these.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

Calvary Chapel Anne Arundel
Pastor Ray Bollas

What I know and am sure of, that I am sure that I am sure of, in it all and through it all, faith (For All I Trust Him).

I said I am not prophesy, saying thus says the Lord regarding this current world event, but I do know when God speaks to me, and that He has spoken to me clearly, or shown something to me clearly, and if I may, please let me share a "Lesson from the Hunt" (the Lessons from the Hunt is something the Lord laid on my heart to start putting a devotional book and video series that is based on spiritual applications that come forth out of hunting and the outdoors).

It was this past Thursday, I had worked my way pretty deep into the woods up in the mountains of Western Maryland. I had been looking forward to this time of just silence in the midst of the woods, the beauty of the woods and the mountains, the walking in the woods, and as always the excitement of the possibility of the hunt.

It was an afternoon hunt, that I as I walked in was fully planning on hunting until the end (which by Maryland Law is 30 minutes after sunset, so for that day sunset was at 5, thus the latest to stay was 5:30pm).

So I know those woods and the place I was hunting somewhat well, but when the sun goes down and you are in a forest everything can really start to look the same. Just a few weeks prior I had forgot my headlamp that I use to come out in the dark, but I said no worries I know I am heading in the right direction, and after only 5 minutes I said to myself probably not, so I better use the light on my cellphone. In just those 5 minutes of walking without light I was about a quarter mile off my exit point. So that being fresh on my mind, as I walked in Thursday I was making mental notes of fallen trees, rock formations, and the big living trees that stood out from the other trees. Even as I sat in my blind for the next few hours I rehearsed the mental notes I had taken, knowing that I would be coming out in the dark.

And as the afternoon started to pass into the evening, and sun begins to fade, the woods get darker, you can feel and sense the woods coming alive because the animals start to move more when the light dims, and it is truly and exciting time to be out, because you know the deer will be on the move way more than in the broad daylight. But then, I just felt in my mind, and a peace about it, that I was packaging up and coming out at 4:30pm, an hour earlier than planned, and most likely meaning I would miss the best time of hunting, and that I would have to face that continual question from my wife..... Any deer ☺

As I was closing it out, I said Lord was there any Lesson from the Hunt? Did I miss something you were showing me? For nothing really impressed upon me, but nonetheless, as always it was wonderful to sit out in the silence, and just (Psalm 46:10 – to be still and know He is God).

Well I couldn't send Renee a text no deer, because I had no cellphone signal, which also means I had no GPS, that at that moment didn't matter to me because I had enough daylight to walk by sight, using my mental notes I had laid out on the way in.

So where am I going with all this? Almost immediately as I started to hike out, a fog suddenly started moving into the woods. By the time I packed up my hunting blind, hiked out of the woods and made it back to my truck, then secured my gear and packed it in the truck, it was 5:15, and by the time I got in my truck to pull out, I literally could not see further than a couple feet. I drove out of the woods on the gravel road, going just a mile or two an hour. It took me close to an hour to get off the mountain. I have never experience fog in the woods of that thickness, nor experienced how quickly it moved in. It seemed to just come on in its mass in just 5-10 minutes. It was still great visibility when I was unpacking my gear into the car. So like at 5:15, blink, it was near zero visibility.

Let me say this, I always check the weather before going out, always, that is hunting 101, and nowhere was there any weather advisor.

It was the next day as I was spending time with the Lord, asked Him again, was there no Lesson from the Hunt, to which immediately all the pieces came together. No cellphone signal no way to call for help, and no GPS to navigate with in zero visibility, and..... had I gotten a shot at 4:30..... I would have done what I was supposed to do, wait 45 minutes) for the deer to run and not chase it pushing it further away, then I would have started to track it (with my head down, totally focused on the ground follow the signs step by step). If I would have gotten the shot I wanted, at 4:30pm, at 5:15pm I would have looked up and realized I am lost in the woods, who knows how much deeper into the woods (a mile, two). No moon for light, no flashlight that would matter because visibility was near zero, no cell signal no GPS (as even in darkness I can navigate with my handheld GPS), and no cell signal, no calling for help (if a man would be humble enough to do such a thing).

As I hiked in I worked up a sweat, and when you are tracking that produces sweat, dew point rising with the fog, temperature in the mountains dropping, no matches for a fire (hey the truck I said to myself is only 5 miles away)..... it would have been a long night, maybe even a bad night. Needless to say, step into a hole and twist an ankle in the dark, things can really go from bad to worse really quick. Did I mention no cellphone signal?

I am thankful, I was impressed by the Lord to call the hunt at 4:30pm, and am thankful I did not get a shot in the hunt, whether at 430pm, or even 330pm. Who knows how the night would turned out for me.

As I was walking out at 4:30pm, I said to myself, well things didn't go the way I had hoped. The next morning, I said I am glad things didn't turn out the way I had hoped. I was brought to a place, I trust You Lord, I have faith in You, For-All-I-Trust-You.

Maybe the year didn't end as you had hoped, desired it to be, whether it be sickness, or a relation, or some expectation you had, as we close out the past year, and come into this new year, as we start this new study in this epistle, may we start the year with these words of Paul..... "according to the faith" (For-All-I-Trust-Him).

Let us purpose today, that purpose for the year, we so amen (let it be fulfilled, I own that), that everything we face this year, we say in the midst of it, in the going into it, in the coming out of it – Lord, for all I trust You.

(Titus 1:1 NKJV) Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,

Paul, a bondservant of God..... The Greek word translated "servant" is *doulos*, or bondservant. After six years of service, slaves were set free. But if a slave wanted to remain in his master's service, an earring would be placed in his ear, signifying that he was a slave by choice, he was called a bondservant. Slavery in Israel was used to pay off a person's debts. Often, a slave ended up serving a kind and benevolent master, and lived a better life in his master's house than he could ever achieve on his own. In response, sometimes these freed slaves would forego their liberty to remain in the master's household. Exodus 21 tells us in such cases the slave would go to the door of his master's house, and before the city magistrates, a sharp awl was driven through the lobe of his ear. He was pinned to his master's door. And that pierced ear forever identified that person as a "love-slave," or as Paul puts it in verse 1, a "bondservant."

Paul considered himself a "love-slave" of Jesus. At first he came to Christ because he owed the Lord an enormous debt he could never repay. But the longer he served the more he realized he

could do far better in God's house than he ever could do on his own. Paul was pinned to the door of his kind, benevolent master. What about you? Are you a "bondservant of God"?

I am reminded of Romans 12:1-2, which says to "present" our bodies as living sacrifices. Still being in the Christmas mindset, how easy to see the word "present – as in gift" Lord you gave me an awesome present for Christmas, Your Only Begotten Son born in a manger in Bethlehem..... how about we present (as in a gift) ourselves to God. Lord you gave me this wonderful gift on Christmas, You! As a payment to cleanse me and make me white as snow before You by the washing away of my sin. Now I want today, to give You a gift.....myself.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

And the wonder of it all, that He would say, oh a gift for Me, I love it, it's the perfect gift, there is no greater gift you could have given me, than you.

Maybe you say, it's a far stretch for me to think myself the great gift to God, but I am reminded of when we were looking for a house years and years ago, it was during the housing market boom, before the housing market kaboom (collapse), and home after home the prices were like crazy, and the realtor was this house is worth this much, the owner will only sell for this amount because the house is worth this much. To which we offered 10% less, and the realtor said no way, you are way too low based on market value, to which I said the value of anything is truly based on one thing only, what is someone willing to pay for it.

I see God's only Begotten Son born in a manger in Bethlehem, perfect, pure, and innocent; then to see Him live perfectly, but still choose the cross, so that I might be rescued from myself and this lost and dying world..... not only speaks the depth of His love for me (John 3:16), but also my/your value and worth. THE VALUE OF ANYTHING IS BASED ON ONE THING ONLY – WHAT SOMEONE IS WILLING TO PAY FOR IT.

You/I are purchased not with silver or gold, but the precious body/blood of God Himself, you are and have been made perfect before Him.

1 Peter 1:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

A favorite worship song of mine, that never seems to grow old to me is "White as Snow"

*White as snow
white as snow Though my sins were as scarlet
Lord I know Lord
I know That I'm clean and forgiven
Through the power of your blood,
Through the wonder of your love,
Through faith in you I know that I can be*

*white as snow
white as snow
white as snow*

When we take communion today, may we say, "Lord here is my gift to You, me". All of me, how could I give You anything less. And I pray you hear Him say, "it's the perfect, priceless, gift". What a way to start off a New Year, saying here is my gift to You – me. But if you are reading this or hearing six weeks from now, six months from now, and you want a new year, you can pray the same and say the same, right now today. Because every day, is a new day with the Lord:

Lamentations 3:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

I would like to start this study, this new year off with the remembrance and celebration of communion, and a remembrance of what it took to become the “elect”, chosen and redeemed by God, is beautiful woven through the redemption story, which..... physically began in Bethlehem, when God stepped into our world, and became the God-Man, the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world, the perfect spotless Lamb – the Gift we needed:

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Romans 3:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

The Gospel (Good News), the heart of God, is woven through in the little town of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem played host to the Nativity, an event that the world hardly noticed, yet that changed the destiny of every human creature. As Ralph W. Sockman once phrased it, “The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable.” We imagine a silent night—but remember, the inns were full and celebrants must have roamed the streets. We imagine an obscure town—yet Bethlehem already bore a surprisingly mixed legacy.

The Bible tells us that it was in Bethlehem, for example, that Jacob’s beloved wife, Rachel, was buried. Tragically, she died in childbirth as Joseph’s beloved brother, Benjamin, came into the world.

Genesis 35:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).*

Around another bend of history’s trail lies Ruth, whose story is short but moving. Two widows—Ruth and Naomi, her mother-in-law—left foreign Moab for the small town where Naomi and her husband had lived, the town of Bethlehem. There they prospered and Ruth remarried. In Ruth 4, the people offered their blessing on Ruth and her new husband. They compared her to Rachel and expressed their prayers that her descendants would be great. Those prayers were answered in ways the people could never have dreamed.

Ruth 4:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ *And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, “We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹² May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman.”*

Ruth 4:18–22 (NKJV) ¹⁸ *Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; ¹⁹ Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; ²⁰ Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; ²¹ Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; ²² Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.*

Little Bethlehem also provided ancient Israel its most enduring hero. The prophet Samuel had come to town in search of a future king, just as other wise men would do hundreds of years later. The book of 1 Samuel records how the prophet came to the house of Jesse and carefully sized up the young men of the household, one by one. His godly eye finally fell upon David, the shepherd boy, the “least likely to succeed.” Here, Samuel announced, was the raw material of a popular king. Here stood one who was destined to be known as the “man after God’s own heart.” Shepherd to king? The idea was startling.

1 Samuel 17:12 (NKJV) ¹² *Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul.*

1 Samuel 16:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ *Now the LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.” ² And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” But the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ ³ Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you.” ⁴ So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”*

1 Samuel 16:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ *And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.” ¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And*

the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

In darker times, an aging King David would see Israel's mortal enemy, the Philistines, place a garrison in his beloved Bethlehem. When David longed for water from its well, a squad of his courageous soldiers broke through to steal a drink for him—only to see him pour out the water as a sacrifice before God.

1 Chronicles 11:15–19 (NKJV)¹⁵ Now three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the army of the Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. ¹⁶ David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. ¹⁷ And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" ¹⁸ So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD. ¹⁹ And he said, "Far be it from me, O my God, that I should do this! Shall I drink the blood of these men *who have put their lives in jeopardy?* For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

The family tree of Jesus Christ shows all three names: Rachel, Ruth, David. Mother, Moabitess, monarch. We cannot help but see the puzzle pieces, the tantalizing clues to the wonderful legacy that would one day belong to Bethlehem. The greatest clue of all, though, was in plain sight for every Hebrew who searched the Scriptures. In the scrolls of the prophets was written an amazing prediction: "You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past" (Micah 5:2).

Micah 4:8 (NKJV)⁸ *And you, O tower of the flock, The stronghold of the daughter of Zion, To you shall it come, Even the former dominion shall come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem."*

Micah 5:2 (NKJV)² *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."*

Bethlehem Ephrathah—two names, two meanings. Bethlehem means "the house of bread." Its Child would later call himself "the Bread of life," and he would say, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:51). What more fitting place than the "house of bread" for such a one to be born?

John 6:51 (NKJV)⁵¹ *I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."*

What about that second name? Ephrathah, a much older name for the town, means "fruitfulness." Ephrath is a verb meaning "to be fruitful." Once again, the Child of Bethlehem would remind us of his first home when he said, "When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples" (John 15:8).

John 15:8 (NKJV)⁸ *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

For those who read the ancient writings and those who thought about the eternal workings of God, the clues were always there—in the history, the names, and the surprising ways of God himself. That Bethlehem, it bore watching. So as the years went by, the rabbis remembered and the scholars kept an eye on the little town. Everyone else passed it by without much notice, so that upon that amazing night, when a peasant and his betrothed wife stole wearily into town, no one could have anticipated that the world would be changed forever.

Perhaps this is the reason we think of Bethlehem as a timeless town, set on an eternally silent and starry night. We know that the local inns had room for anyone and everyone but a king; that not so much as a pillow could be offered to one who would one day give all that he had for them. Yet we cannot bear the innkeepers and tax takers much of a grudge—there is too much joy in the occasion.

For in some forgotten corner of a forgotten town in a forgotten country, the most unforgettable news is suddenly abroad. In the "house of bread," the Bread of life has been served for all humanity. In the town of fruitfulness, someone has come to offer the sweet fruit of heaven. And from the place where there was once a well that a thirsty king coveted, there would spring up a fountain of living water for all people. The one who offered it said, "Those who drink the water I

give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life" (John 4:14).

John 4:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Why Bethlehem? Why your heart or mine? City and soul, they are equally silent, equally mixed in their histories, equally thirsty. Just as the Child quietly arrived in that town of towns, he longs to be born again in the hearts of every one of us.

Jeremiah, D. (2006). Why the Nativity?: 25 Compelling Reasons We Celebrate the Birth of Jesus (K. S. Olson, Ed.; pp. 43–46). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

The Gospel Through Bethlehem:

- Rachael Dies –
- Boaz Redeems Ruth
- Prayers that were Prophetic
- David Anointed King
- David Pours Out the Offering
- The Watchtower
- Bethlehem-Ephrathah

The Gospel Through Bethlehem:

- Rachael Dies –
 - In what seemed like a place of darkness and loss, was a backdrop of Light that was going to breakthrough and hope that would arise
- Boaz Redeems Ruth
 - Then we move on to the story of Boaz redeeming Ruth and Ruth, an outsider not one of the nations. She was destitute, she was all alone. And yet she would say to her mother-in-law of her deceased husband, "Your God shall be my God." And those words, echoed and run through heaven. And God heard those words and he honored those words of this common woman forgotten and on the outside.
- Prayers that were Prophetic
 - Then we move to the prayer that was lifted up for her as she would marry Boaz. And the story is that kinsman redeemer, that Boaz a picture of Christ came redeemed Ruth. An outsider who was destitute on the outside, looking in and made her his bride. And he cherished her, loved her, and the prayers were lifted up for this couple. That she would be famous in Bethlehem. And so she was, as the lineage to the Messiah would come through this outsider, Ruth. Redeemed by Boaz in love.
- David Anointed King
 - And once again, we see God hears the prayers and cries of his people. Stores them in a bottle and then his timing responds according to his will and the famous and the greatness will come. As Samuel will come into Bethlehem and anoint David, a little shepherd boy, the least likely. But God heard his heart because it was a man who's after God's own heart. And once again, God responds, David is chosen. And the lineage of the Messiah goes through the throne, the king ship here on Earth, as it is in heaven. And the lamb of God was also the King God.
- The Watchtower
 - Then as we've studied and looked before the watch tower, the place five miles from the temple in Jerusalem was where the temple sacrifices, the perfect lambs would be raised and nurtured and then delivered for Passover. So the death, the sting of death, the power of sin, would pass over us and be set free through this King who became the lamb of God to take away the sin of the world
- Bethlehem-Ephrathah
 - And it was there in Bethlehem, Ephraim. Bethlehem means house of bread, Ephraim means fruitfulness. And now all the pieces start to come together. Jesus

Christ saying, "I am the bread of life." And here we hold the communion elements in our hand and the fruitfulness of the vine we hold in our hands with this cup. And only what God could do the bread of life being nourishing bread unto us. Giving us life and to sustain us and says, "We're attached to him. We shall be fruitful."

- David Pours Out the Offering
 - And here we hold the cup of the promise that says just that. And the powerful, most wonderful is the story of David pouring out the drink offering. What was sacrificed he turned into an offering as Jesus would cry, "If anyone thirsts, let him come after me." And here we are today, everything we needed, everything man desires can be found in Bethlehem. All the cries of man being destitute and all the cries of man's heart saying, "Come Lord Jesus. Hear my prayer." We find through the history and the thread through Bethlehem. For everything that we needed for life and godliness as we begin to study this book, the very theme of life and godliness is found in Christ Jesus.

And his human history started in a manger in Bethlehem. Goes to a cross in Golgotha. The Lamb of God who take away the sin of the world. And the perfect fulfillment of this human history, which became God history through Bethlehem, is proof of his deep blow for us. His passion, willing to pour himself out for us. And therefore we can come into this place and claim according to godliness, according to faith, that for all I trust him and he will never leave you nor forsake you even in the midst of whatever you're in the midst of. Let's take this cup and do it in remembrance of him and what he's done and him and what he promises. And that other word we see at the end, 'till he comes and he's coming folks, soon and very soon.

It's because of Gospel we can trust Him, for all I trust Him, because the Gospel proves His faithfulness to us.

Communion

On the night in which He was betrayed

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

on the beach in a frantic search mode (once again nobody stopping to help – even in all her fear).

After they reconnected, I continued on, and I thought wow had that child kept going south, and a world filled with sick predators, who knows what might have happened to this beautiful child today.....and the Lord immediately said, but I sent you. And I thus immediately overwhelmed with the goodness of the Lord, You still chose to use me, even after I challenged You, and Your goodness, and that You saw me. So Christian, I tell you a story of one of my lowest moments in my walk, and one of God's sweetest forgiveness to me, and say to you..... Faith has to be tested, and He knows our failures, but doesn't fail us when we fail Him, rather He simply marks them as pieces and steps in His refining process, and wants to remind you today, even in your failings, I will never fail you, so if you have failed recently, He says lets go, lets walk together, I am far from done..... lets head north, I got something to show you, I am going to use you in great in mighty ways.

Verse 4 – grace, mercy, peace: – again the power is in where it is sent from, and grace, mercy, and peace come from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and it cant be found in this world, thus why some people are living with no peace in their life.

- Grace- getting what we don't deserve, eternal life because His sacrificed life. Paid in Full.
- Mercy – not getting what we deserve, judgement and wrath because we broke His holy commandments. It is Done
- Peace – peace with God, peace (rest) from the condemnation of sin.

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Revelation 21:5-7 (NKJV) ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Romans 5:1 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Christian now go live in the power of peace, of being the elected, an unanimous vote, I want Ray!

Grace, mercy, and peace - Paul's interface with the world; everywhere he went and everybody he encountered, he wanted to leave them with grace, mercy and peace. I like that, in the 7/11, at work, at the local business. I have to tell ya, I worked this guy this week. He was so mean, and the meaner he got, the nicer I was. I complimented him on his job performance, and told him I appreciated him, he didn't know what to do because I'm sure he is use to people not liking him because he is so mean. He didn't know how to handle the compliment, probably because no one ever gives him one..... Grace, mercy, and peace

With those words (grace – mercy – peace), lets head to the communion table.

Communion

The power of communion, when we do it together, as we do not forsake the assembly of the brethren

1 Corinthians 11:17-22 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Now in giving these instructions I do not praise *you*, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. ²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of *others*; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise *you*.

The Lord gives a great calling in communion to examine ourselves, and deal with anything and everything that is contrary to the Word of the Lord. In Corinth Church one of their big issues was division in the church, and people were not looking out for their brothers and sisters in the church. People were not reverencing the price that was paid by the Lord (v29 – not discerning the Lord's body), and thus were living to their will and not the Lord's. We see that the abuse in the church

was so extreme that God brought a correction upon them. But what I want to focus on is the promise that comes with communion. The communion table takes us back to what He has done for us, it reminds us where we were before we came to the understanding of what He did for us, it reminds us of the fleeting fading emptiness the world offers all of us. The communion (fellowship) table takes me back to my worth, my value, the treasure I am before Him and to Him, and that brings power into my life as I know the reassurance I am. And knowing the treasure I am, will lead me to live like the treasure I am. That is spiritual power! And, I do believe there is a healing power (in accordance with God's Will – just as the Cup that was before Him, He said nevertheless let Thy will be done); but in Isaiah we are told, by His stripes we are healed. Healed from the curse of sin for sure, delivered from the power of sin absolutely, but I can take the cup here at the communion table (it is not a mystical potion), but say Lord You have the power to heal, and so I ask, if You will..... heal me, because communion brings me into the remembrance of your healing power.

1 Corinthians 11:27–34 (NKJV) ²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. ³³ Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

1 Peter 2:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ *who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;* ²⁴ *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

On the night in which He was betrayed

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;* ²⁴ *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."* ²⁵ *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."* ²⁶ *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

