

“Good morning. Good to see everyone this morning. If you would, in your bed, let's turn to Philippians chapter 3.

Philippians chapter 3 this morning. We're going to be talking about traveling on. And to be honest with you, when Brother Eddie asked me to preach homecoming, I had a sermon that I wanted to preach.

You know, and it was when God's in the house. And that's what I wanted to preach. But the closer we got to today, the more the Lord has led me to this passage of scripture.

So this may not be the typical homecoming hurrah message, but I think it's a message that every single one of us, listen, every single one of us, including myself, needs to hear this morning. And so if you would, pray with me, and we'll ask the Lord's blessing on our service this morning and pray that His will be done. And that's what we're here for.

Amen? Is to glorify and follow Him. Let's pray.

Lord, we love you. We thank you so much for your guiding spirit, Lord Jesus. We thank you for the help of eternal life we have through you.”

“We thank you for your mercies, Lord, you bestow upon us each and every day. Lord, we thank you for the blood of Jesus, Lord, that gives us salvation, that gives us hope and glory, hope of eternal life in heaven. And we just pray, Lord Jesus, this morning, that you be with the reading of your word, the preaching of your word.

I pray, Lord, you be with me as I open the word, Lord Jesus, and preach the message, Lord, you've laid on my heart for these, your people. And I pray, Lord, you disunite me to the Holy Spirit. Put me out of the way here this morning, Lord.

And allow this Lord Jesus' message to penetrate our hearts, our minds, and our souls, and all these things we ask in Jesus' name. Amen. If you would, in Philippians chapter 3, we're going to start reading in verse number 10.

Verse number 10. Brother Eddie told me that I can preach until either I run out of cough drops, or he starts walking down to go get in the fish line.

I'm down to three cough drops. So that's about two or three hours worth, okay?”

“If you ever heard Brother Eddie talk about the button, he did check my pockets to make sure I didn't have any buttons. So now, I want you to pay attention to these scriptures and hear what the message has this morning.

It says this, But I may know him, him being Jesus, that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made comfortable unto his death, that by any means I may attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Now, though I had already attained, either I would have already passed it, but I feel after that I may have been one, but for which I also am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Right then, I count not my thoughts to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, for doing those things which I belong, and reaching forth unto those things which I before, I put to Lord the mark for the prize of the high calling of God and Christ Jesus.

Great scripture there.”

“But chapter 3 right here gives us a great example of how we are to do lives when we are traveling on. This is homecoming today for you all, and what a great day homecoming is.

The church of our pastors is having homecoming next week, and so I get two homecoming miles back to back. We're free in my Baptist, and we're going for it, right? But that is a grand, large supper, but more supper than him, but I'm looking forward to a grand homecoming this week.

I'm looking forward to going, trying my best to travel up in this place, or that way, and that is the Great Reunion Day in Heaven with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and with the saints that went on before us. I'm looking forward to that, and I'm trying my best to travel up. Does anybody remember the old man I feel like traveling on?

I'll get it up here on the thing.

Do we have the thing? And I'm not going to make you endure hearing me sing, okay? You guys heard some beautiful singing.

I'm just going to read the words, okay?”

“I'm going to read it. It says this, The cross goes, The Lord both says this, Can we give an amen to that?

Then of course again, I love that song. I love the essence that it gives off about how I'm traveling on so that I can reach Betty and Tomo's home. I love that song.

I really like it. But if I was to be honest with you this morning, that's because even in my Christian walk, I haven't felt like traveling on. I mean, I feel like that all the time, right?

I should feel like traveling on all the time. And when we're here in this place, we put our masks on and we open our hands and we raise our hands and we clap until the bag gets in place and we stop clapping. And, you know, we get excited.

But when we get up in the rain, sometimes life happens, and we don't feel like traveling on as much. You see, faith is about something that we live by feeling alone. Faith is deeper than that.”

“So how do I travel? And what's the mark that Paul talks about here when I feel like quitting and giving up? Now, don't be rowdy all morning.

Say you never felt like giving up. You never felt like throwing yourself in the towel. You never felt like turning around and going backwards because we all feel that from time to time.

We all have those moments in our lives where we don't feel like traveling. So what are some, what are some practical things that I need to take to keep my focus on traveling on towards the mark, even when I don't feel like it? And so again, let's face it.

We're here this morning, and we're happy that it's coming. We're happy that this is about the time, and we're willing, but Brother Curtis is the only thing standing between us and this, and we don't know how long he's going to do. Why do I keep traveling on?

Because let's face it, we all have bodies that break down.

We all go through difficulties in our life.”

“We all experience situations where sometimes life renders that excitement to travel on. And the thing about that is, is that none of us should desire a faith that only operates when everything is going good, right? Because that's not true faith.

True faith in Almighty God is remaining faithful to Him, remaining person person out, continuing to travel on even when I don't feel like it, even when I don't feel good. We need a faith that operates regardless of how we feel. So the first thing I need to do, it comes in verse number 13, and that is I need to forget my past.

If I'm going to continue to travel on, even when I don't feel like it, sometimes I have to forget my past. In verse number 13, it says, Reverend, I count not myself to have apprehended. In the previous verse, he talks about being apprehended, and coming into perfection.

It says, I'm having a pain there here. And he tells us, it kind of reminds us in verse number 13, I count not myself to have apprehended. I have not arrived.”

“In other words, Paul was saying, now I have met from time to time some people who think they've arrived, but none of us have arrived. None of us are going to be perfect until we get to heaven.

We all have tasks we deal with on a daily basis, and it's not in the space. I have not apprehended. I have not attained.

I have not arrived, but this one thing I do, is to tell the Miller this one thing I do, forgiving those things which are behind, and reaching for them through things which are before.

Well, for the chorus, it's a lot easier to have been born. It is a lot easier said than done.

It's only through the grace and mercy of Almighty God, the uniting of the Holy Spirit and the earth, that I am able to do that. But if I'm going to travel in the heaven, I must read my past exactly where it is in the past. Stop bringing it back.”

“And that's the thing, the devil wants to bring your past up to get you down, to make you feel unworthy. But Jesus is telling us that when you're going to travel, towards the mark, past towards the mark. And so I'm proud here.

I encourage you to go to the Philippians Church. Now, I wonder who this is.

The Philippians Church. Yes, there's Lydia there. The star of purple.

Probably some of her servants was there. But there was also a Roman denier in that church. Probably some prisoners that was with Paul and Silas in the prison in that church.

There's probably a little damsel lady that was demon possessed for a while in that church. And so a lot of these people that were in the church got cursed. And Paul is telling them, there's what you need to do with your past, and that is to forget your past.

So forget about it. Move on. And sometimes, again, I know that's hard, because sometimes when you're on a mess, you have to stop thinking about the 15 other things out there that's distracting you from the one thing you need to focus on, and that is Jesus Christ”

“See, the devil loves you dwelling in the past because it gets you off focus from what really matters, and that is Jesus Christ.

You see, we all have past things.

We all have past situations.

We all have past fears. We all have past fears. Things that live and grow in what we call the past is right there, right there in us, right here.

There are things that can distract us. They button us down. Those things convince us, they spiritualize us.

Even this morning, you may be writing those things in the past, paralyze you, and your ability to move forward with Jesus' past and your relationship with our mighty God. Maybe even this morning, you are letting some of that past things hinder you from traveling on, from pressing towards the mark. And the thing about it is, sometimes we just need to let go of the past, even when it's hard to do.

Anybody ever know the story about the monkey that was disrespectful and unruly?

And the zookeeper had a monkey, and the head of the zoo told the zookeeper to take the monkey out of one cage and put it in another cage”

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<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/traveling-on/id1652234925?i=1000730419519&r=646>

This material may be protected by copyright“But the thing about it is, they couldn't catch the monkey.

Monkeys running around all over the place, and it's been very difficult to catch. They tried everything. They tried long way around with food and with water and everything, and they could not get this monkey.

They could not catch the monkey. And so the zookeeper came up with an idea.

But it seemed that curiosity got the, I was going to say cat, but got the monkey, right? And came over, and the monkey put up the coconut, saw the shiny thing in the coconut, reached with his hand into the coconut, and grabbed hold of the shiny thing. The thing about it is, that hole was big enough for him to get his hand in, but when he made a fist, the hole was too small for him to get his hand out.”

“The thing about that is, is that the zookeeper, when the monkey got his hand on that shiny thing, and made a fist, and could not get his hand out, the zookeeper was out there pulling on the string, getting the monkey to come through. All the monkey had to do was let go of the shiny thing in the coconut, and he couldn't free himself. But he could not, he would not let go of the shiny thing, and because he would not let go of the shiny thing, the zookeeper grabbed the monkey, held him in, picked him up, and put him in a different cage.

Because he would not let go of the shiny thing. To me, things are past, is that shiny thing. And we will hold on to it.

And we won't let it go. And that is hindering our ability to press towards the mark, to travel on to the glories of God that God wants to do in our lives. And we reap at that story, and we reap at that monkey, but the monkey in the story is you and I, and we must let go of the past.”

“If we want to be free from all of the sin and all of the baddage, nor the weight of the things that the devil puts out on a daily basis, we must let go of the past.

But then we travel on and keep traveling on, I must let go and forget the past. The second thing that we have to do, listen, this is going to be hard, stop playing the victim.

Now, I've got a few more years, but I didn't know how to be fun with showing out when, we must stop playing the victim. That's what we want to do.

That's what our society wants us to do, right?

That's what the first member can. And he says, that I may know him, that I may know Jesus, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his faith raise, being more conformable unto his God, if by any means I may attain to the resurrection of the God. Remember the story of Jonah?"

"God comes to Jonah. Now, about Jonah, I want you to go, I want you to preach to the monogatts. Now, if you don't know the story, one of it was the noble enemies of Israel, right?

And they did not like each other. And Jonah listens to God. God tells him to go and preach his word to none of it.

And what is Jonah doing? I'm going to go, I'm going to listen to you, like all good Christians do.

I've had nice Christians, and you can't be exact opposite. In fact, he says, I'm going to run away. There's no way I'm going to go over there and talk to them.

I don't like them. They don't look at me, they don't clap at me, they don't go to the same places. They've done something in my past that I don't like.

And so there's no way. But I'm going to go over and preach the word, and be kind, and be gracious, and be merciful for the day.

There's no way I'm going to be having to death people."

"And so he dips in a bow, and he tries to sail away. But we have a story about God sent a great tempest, a great hurricane more than likely, a great storm into the sea, and the sailors were trained to save the ship, and they're throwing everything overboard. Now, putting down Jonah, the tempest is up, and they throw Jonah overboard, and he gets swallowed by a great whale, in the belly of a whale.

Jonah cries out to God, and he says, Lord, it's because those mean guys were mean and mean, I'm here in the belly of this whale.

All right, no one said amen. Praise the Lord.

I was scared. That's not what he says. What does Jonah say?

Jonah, in his sonar language, I'm not scared, Lord. I'm not scared. I did wrong.

I'm sorry that I didn't do what you wanted me to do. God causes the world to get from the sea shore and damage him up, you know, And still, I'm not, right? But it took Jonah, not blaming everybody else, it took Jonah taking responsibility of his actions of running away from God."

"It took Jonah recognizing that he had not stepped into confessing unto God that he had messed up. You see, we would never be able to travel on, we would never be able to press toward the mark until we start taking responsibility for where we are in a walk with Jesus Christ. But if I want to be the person that God wants me to be, I have to take responsibility of

where I am now and allow Jesus to change me into who He wants me to be, not necessarily who I am or who I want to be.

Now, I know that that's completely a counter to the society that we live in, and a poster that is press free on a daily basis. We live in a poster today that wants to bring everybody else to the things that's going on in our lives. How many people have kids?

How many people are kids?

How many people have kids at heart? Okay, don't answer that one.

I have three kids, and some people can be broken in our house.

And the thing about it is, none of them will take responsibility for it."

"But you know what all three of them will do?

They'll blame the other ones. You know?

Seriously. What's up, kids? They're not going to take responsibility for it.

They're going to blame everybody else. And that's what we end up doing, right? God, it's their fault.

They're in where I am. It's not my fault. It's not because I'm here that I am where I am.

It's always somebody else's fault. And God wants us to do it. Wherever we get away with them, and travel on, and test us for more, I have to quit blaming everybody else for who I am spiritually.

I have to stop blaming everybody else for the sins that even I may be doing in my life. I must take responsibility. We must lose.

And when you're right, I am wrong.

Please forgive me attitude. But everybody seems like, especially with them giving the church today, that's not the attitude we have. We are, and forgive me for my sins more, because we want to go to heaven when we die, but we don't want to change anything in between."

"Now, let us, if we really are going to travel on and push towards the mark, I must accept the forgiveness that God gives me.

Right? So many people have said, God forgive me of my sins, and then they go right back into their sins because they don't feel worthy of the forgiveness of Almighty God. But our God is loving and compassionate.

He wants to forgive you of your sins. But once He does forgive you of your sins, you need to start living in the forgiveness of those sins. In other words, you got to take back the ground that you have surrendered to the devil and you're disobeying, or you're not being in the right place spiritually, or not perfecting the mark like you should be in your life.

In Thessalonians chapter 4 verse 1-7 says this, we don't give place to the devil. But you have bowed over creepy church, but you have born again. You have brothers and sisters in Christ."

“You are a followers of Pfwbc. You have been dealt with the price. The highest price you have ever been paid for anybody, Jesus paid for you, so that you can be free from those sins.

It's like you are a Venetian Christian, the devil does not belong where Christ Almighty is. But so take back the ground that you have surrendered to the devil. How do I do that?

James tells us. James, chapter 5 verse 7 says, said, hear yourselves, they thought of God, resist the devil, and hear us, we think of you. Why is that?

So we close that verse and we stop.

Right there, verse number 7, if I resist the devil, he will flee from me. Well, you know, I know that now, but sometimes the devil sticks around. Right?

You know what I'm right telling?

Get out of here.

You don't believe in her? You think that I can't let her out? Right, there is.

Right, is it? Because I'm not as close to God as I need to be. Because verse 7 is so close to that verse 8, which says, Draw nigh to God, and whose God will draw nigh to[...]

“And so when you start drawing nigh to God, God will draw nigh to you, and when God is, Satan definitely won't be. And so you have to put back that grow and accept the forgiveness that God has given you. Now, for us other Christians, we as Christians better not be holding against someone else what God has already forgiven them of.

Do you hear me?

We as Christians better not be holding against someone else what God has already forgiven them of. Have you ever heard that the Christian army is the only army that shoots its own wounded? We do that a lot.

I mean, we're brought down to the science.

Are we not? That's not what we're here to be about. Too many times, we're like the political stand's brother.

Have you ever heard the story about the political stand? The political stand comes to his dad, and he says, hey dad, I want my heart.

And so that's what he was telling his dad, that his dad was dead to him.”

“That had a chronic Jewish culture at the time, to have in that request, before your dad died, to ask for your inheritance, was mean that your dad was dead. The dad gives both boys inheritance.

Sometimes we overlook that with a part of the story.

The both boys get the inheritance. The dad gives. If he's going to give it to one, he's going to give it to both.

The one son stays with dad. Stays in the pond, raises the sheep, bats the cows, and does everything that dad wants. But the one son, when he originally asked for the inheritance, he goes on to the world, and he says, I speak of wealth and wealth is loving.”

“It tells us later on by the testimony of the son that stayed behind with his dad, that the son that ran away had actually spit it on the wall. It's the different things of the world, not all of the things of the world. We know that the prodigal son eventually finds out that the world doesn't want to start crept up to be, but the promises of the world, all the way promises, actually they're better than this to a person's life.

And so he comes to his kids, he recognizes they're a little bit better off coming and working as the employee for his dad to be out there slapping the hogs. And so he runs back home. He comes back home.

His dad is standing on the porch. His dad sees his son walking down the road, and his sister makes for his little son to come on up to him because he's been a bad little boy. No, it's not what happened.

Thank you. It's not what happened. No, the dad sees his son making gone for a little longer, spending his inheritance on things that was not necessary, things that were evil.”

“He sees his son walking down the road, and I can almost see it in the middle of the road when he's...

I can almost see his dad, you know, up there, you know, sitting on the porch, maybe reading the Bible, you know, guys Bible out, and reading his Bible, he has a ladder, you know. I was going to say sweet tea, but I don't drink sweet tea, and I was going to say Coke, but I don't have a Coke, so I put the water. He's water, and pretty soon he may be like me.

You know, I can see really good up close, but back there in the back, unless I have my glasses on, and I don't have them on me, they're up there. I don't know, I can't see you guys back there. I don't know, I know you're back there, but I can't, I don't know, I can't see your faces, okay, your little blobs back there.”

“And I can almost see the dad being older in age, you know, sitting up there relaxing after a long day at work, reading his Bible, sipping on some Diet Coke or Coca Cola or whatever, because they had that back then. And I can see him, you know, down a long highway, you know, out there and going, man, there's someone coming down the road. Wonder who that is.

But you know what?

They have a familiar gate to them. You know anybody that has a familiar gate? You know what that means?

They walk differently, or walk... They walk... Oh, did someone say swaggerly?

They walk distinctively.

You know, I'm trying to make a politically correct statement. There was no words coming to my mind.

But they were walking down. They walked familiarly. This guy recognized the walk.



And the closer the kid got, he got land on it, you know. He was about to say hi to my boy. You know, he walked similar to my boy.”

“And pretty soon, you know, he got close enough, he was able to make out some distinctive markings or distinctive features of this boy. And he gets excited that, man, I think that might be my boy over there. And pretty soon, the boy gets closer, and he gets closer, and he says, Oh, my goodness, that's my boy.

Now, again, the guy goes, he says, Sit it. What does he say, sit it on the porch? No, he steps up, and he runs to his boy, and he picks him up, and he hugs him.

Right? Think for a minute.

And he tells the others, hey, both played the fatted cast, and they will have a party. We will celebrate, because the boy has come back home. The boy that has the past.

The boy that's played the victim. He has come back home, and we are going to celebrate.

The thing about it is, the rest of the church is like the other boy.

What and where are you going, Dad?”

“Do you not know what he did? Do you not know that he said you were dead to him? Do you not know that he went and he spent all of his inheritance on riotous living?

Do you not know he's been out whoring with the world? Do you not know that he's been doing all these bad things? How barely it's the father care for him.

And what does the dad say to the boy?

In verse number 45, verse chapter 15, here's what the dad says to the boy. It was meek that we should make merry. In other words, it is meek that we should be merry about this, and be glad for this thy brother, for this, listen, do you have it right there?

For this thy brother, for this, your brother and sister in Christ, who are at Christmas today, for this thy brother was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found. Amen? Who is what we do?

Who is the Lord? That's the attitude of the Father. That's the attitude of our God.”

“That so many times, we're looking at someone's past, what has messed up, and lived underneath, and lived a bit messed up, but stopped playing the victim, and I've asked for forgiveness of those things, and here we are, over here, changing and persecuted and doing on them, and then discrediting them, instead of working them with open arms and saying, please believe you got right. Let's give myself the honor of being here To help you, to lift it up, to work with you, and to help you won't mess up again. That's where we get the Baptist Church.

If we're going to keep traveling on, we've got to stop playing the victim and accept the forgiveness and help those who have been forgiven. But the praise also must be followed. That's 14.

They say, that's the mark for the praise of the High Holy God in Christ Jesus. Well, what's the praise there that the praise is talking about? If they want to keep traveling on, I might follow the praise.”

“The praise comes in verse number 10, which is, that I may know Him. Our praise as Christians is knowing the One who really gave His life for us. They willingly buy on a cross for us.

That is our praise. That we may know Him. The prayer here was not out there, it's filthy.

It was not out to see how many followers I could get. It was not out there trying to get likes in social media. It was out there doing the work of the Lord because He wanted to know Jesus more, ultimately.

I collect the pocket knives, and I'm part of some pocket knife groups on Facebook, and we'll all try to outdo each other to see who has the coolest knife. We'll take a picture, and we'll edit it to make it look even better than what it is. In reality, we'll skate it, and we'll paint it, and we'll get it looking like me.”

“I have a good friend named Dalton, and I'll be like, this is going to outdo Dalton. I'm going to get more likes on my picture than what Dalton did. So there's a full-on competition between 50 of us on there to see how many likes we can get on our pocket knife pictures.

And the thing about it is, it looks really good when you outdo them. I mean, seriously, we're small things. I mean, like, if you get 15 likes, you're something.

15. I got 15. Take that, Dalton.

I hope Dalton watches this later. He's going to think this is going to be hilarious.

But anyways, it'll be weird when we get excited. It'll be weird. You know, those picture competitions.

I mean, how stupid is that?

But anyways, get this, right? And we think that's awesome. That's the prize of getting so many likes.

The thing about that is, because people like that, people like me, like that, walk around with their empty, whole spiritually. Why is that? Because getting likes from the world does not fill you up on the inside.”

“Really, validation doesn't mean anything. It's not going to stay with you. It's not going to get you to heaven.

It is not going to help you travel on and push towards the mark of the high calling of God. No, we all need to know Jesus, and knowing Jesus, and following Jesus, and allowing Jesus to come into our hearts and fill us up and forgive us for our sins and guide us and direct us into our lives.

There is the prize in knowing Him. You see, only a real relationship with Jesus will help you truly fill that hole that's deep within you. And until your prize shifts from famous of the world to a relationship with Jesus Christ, you will continue to seek your validation in the wrong things.

I mean, those things, those pictures, those pocket knives are fun. It's friendly competition. But I'm thankful that my validation doesn't come from a pocket knife picture.

My validation comes because I know Jesus as my personal Savior. And lastly, praise the Lord lastly. That means we got 75 minutes until the fix, right?”

"There is a promise to look forward to. Amen? Yes, we need to forget the past.

If I'm going to travel on, I have to forget the past. I have to stop playing the victim. I have to follow the prize, and I have to look forward to the promise.

Verse number 20 of Philippians chapter 3 says this, for all our conversation is in heaven.

What does that mean? It means that we should start acting like citizens of heaven already. When you translate that word from the Greek, it means citizen of, right?

So he's talking about the way we present ourselves, the way we live our daily lives is in heaven. We should live as citizens of heaven already. That's from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He'll change our vile body, but it may be fastened like unto His glorious body, according to the word from thereby, He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.

He's just for us to keep traveling on. One must remember what is waiting for those who truly know Jesus as their Savior. And this is that six-liter word called heaven.

"That's the prize.

That's the promise that I'm looking forward to. Yes, there are days in my life where I feel like throwing in the towel. You know, most pastors will have that on a Monday.

You know, Sundays are fantastic. Unless there's a deacon meeting afterwards, and then maybe not so much. Joking.

Joking deacon. But Monday is when the phone call starts, and life happens. And that high and mountain-climbing experience quickly becomes a valley.

But the thing about that is that I have a promise from Almighty God that even when life seems tough and when even whenever it feels like traveling on, maybe not, you know, it's going to be difficult, and the road is going to be rocky, and a lot of potholes in it. I have a promise from Almighty God that makes it worth it. And let's get this place called heaven.

That we talked about earlier when we talked about the great homecoming. It's a wonderful place. It's a place where there is no more sickness, no more phone calls.

Talking about people sick. People going through struggles. People dying."

"There's not going to be any of those things in heaven, because heaven is going to be amazing. It's going to be perfect. There's not going to be any sin there.

Praise the Lord. No one's going to die out of anybody.

That's worth it right there.

Amen. There's not going to be any doctor visits there. No more funeral homes there.

There ain't going to be no nursing homes there. There ain't going to be no hospitals there.

Why?

Because it's not going to be needed there. Because Jesus is the mighty physician, and everything is going to be perfect.

That's what I have to look forward to. And so whenever I endure life, and it feels right not traveling on, I can open a number, or I can go on Google and research the lyrics, and I can truly sing them.

Yes, I feel like traveling on.

Yes, it may have been difficult right now, but yes, I feel like traveling on. I feel like traveling on. Why?"

"My heavenly home is bright and fair. I feel like traveling on.

But again, for me to travel on, I have to forget the past. Stop living in the past. I have to stop playing the victim.

I have to acknowledge my sin, confess my sin, and receive the forgiveness given by Almighty God unto me. I must follow the prize, the prize of knowing Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, looking always to the promise that He has given me, and that is heaven. So if you're here this morning, and you don't know Jesus as your personal Savior, today, homecoming day, would be a great day for you to come forward and say, God, forgive me of my sins coming to my heart.

Make me who you want me to be.

Lord, I am putting my past in the past.

I'm looking forward to being a new creature in you.

I look forward to allowing you to transform my mind and making me who you want me to be. Lord, from this day forward, I'm going to stop playing the victim."

"I'm going to take responsibility of where I am. I'm going to take responsibility of my sin, and I'm asking you to forgive me. And in your word, you promised that if I confess my sins, you are faithful and judged to forgive me of my sins and cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

And I am taking hold of that scripture and applying it to my life.

Lord, will you forgive me of my sin?

And once you do that, you need to know Jesus. And the best way to know Jesus is getting into the Word of God. Applying it to your life on a daily basis, and allowing Jesus to motivate you, guide you, and direct you, and in all those things, yes, there will still be a bad day from time to time, but you have a promise, the promise of heaven.

What a wonderful promise that Jesus gives to those who remain faithful to him. Let's all stand if we can have the hymn of invocation."