

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TODAY.

>> WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS TODAY, THE PROGRAM WHERE YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND GOOD NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

>> I'M MARK TESKE, YOUR HOST FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME COMES FROM ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14. SO GET YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO THE END OF THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES. I'LL MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. AUSTIN FOWLER JOINS US WITH A NEW SEGMENT TODAY, AND HE'S TALKING ABOUT SEEING GOD'S WORD CLEARLY. JIM DEARMAN HAS SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT ESCALATORS. ERIC GARNER SITS DOWN WITH BARRY GILREATH TO DISCUSS EMOTIONAL ABUSE. ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN DIG INTO A BIBLE QUESTION FROM HEBREWS 13:17. WELL, I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES OPENED UP TO ECCLESIASTES 12, WHERE WE READ BEGINNING AT VERSE 13, LET US HEAR THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER: FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, FOR THIS IS MAN'S ALL. FOR GOD WILL BRING EVERY WORK INTO JUDGMENT, INCLUDING EVERY SECRET THING, WHETHER GOOD OR EVIL.

>> (SINGING)

>> OUR TEXT FOR TODAY COMES FROM THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES. THIS IS A BOOK THAT OFTENTIMES GETS NEGLECTED. IT'S IN THE POETRY SECTION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. COMES AFTER PSALMS AND PROVERBS. IT WAS WRITTEN BY A KING IN JERUSALEM, A SON OF DAVID WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS THE PREACHER. MOST PEOPLE CREDIT SOLOMON WITH WRITING ECCLESIASTES BY INSPIRATION. AND THE AUTHOR OF THIS BOOK LOOKS FOR MEANING IN LIFE IN MANY DIFFERENT PLACES; AND THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES, HE LOOKS AT VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HIS LIFE SEEKING TO FIND MEANING IN LIFE. HE BEGINS WITH WISDOM. IS THERE MEANING IN HAVING GREAT WISDOM, WHICH SOLOMON DID HAVE. HE SAID, OH, THIS IS EMPTINESS, THIS IS VANITY. OR LOOKING AT PLEASURE, THAT HEDONISM, WHAT FEELS GOOD, IS THAT THE MEANING OF LIFE? NO. WHAT ABOUT HARD WORK? THOUGH HE ADMITS THERE'S SOME BENEFIT IN HARD WORK, IT, TOO, IS MEANINGLESS. OR HOW ABOUT POPULARITY AND PRESTIGE? THAT, TOO, IS MEANINGLESS; BECAUSE YOU SEE, EVERYONE DIES, AND LIFE'S OVER. THUS, IT REALLY IS ALL MEANINGLESS, EMPTY, OR AS SOME TRANSLATIONS PUT IT, VANITY OF VANITIES. SO OUR TEXT FOR TODAY COMES FROM THE LAST TWO VERSES OF THIS BOOK, THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER. AND HE TELLS US TO FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE OF MAN, THIS IS MAN'S ALL. HE COMES TO THE CONCLUSION, THIS IS THE ULTIMATE MEANING OF LIFE. YOU SEE, WE'RE HERE ON THIS EARTH FOR JUST A FEW SHORT YEARS, WHERE WE MAKE A CHOICE WHETHER TO FEAR GOD AND OBEY HIM OR DISREGARD GOD AND DISOBEY HIM. ETERNITY WHICH LASTS FOREVER IS DECIDED BY THESE FEW SHORT YEARS. AND AFTER THOSE YEARS ARE OVER, EVERY DEED IS GOING TO BE JUDGED. GOOD DEEDS ARE GOING TO BE PRAISED, BUT THEY ARE MERELY DEBTS THAT WE OWE TO GOD, LUKE 17:10. LIKewise, EVIL DEEDS ARE GOING TO BE PUNISHED. YOU SEE, GOD'S FAITHFUL TO REWARD. HE'S ALSO FAITHFUL IN HIS JUSTICE. AND HIS JUSTICE DEMANDS THAT HE'S GOING TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH WHAT HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO DO. SO OUR SINS WILL BE HELD AGAINST US UNLESS THEY'RE WASHED IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, REVELATION 1:5. WHEN DOES THAT

WASHING OCCUR? WHEN WE'RE BAPTIZED? ACTS 22:16, SAUL OF TARSUS WAS TOLD TO ARISE AND BE BAPTIZED AND WASH AWAY YOUR SINS. THROUGH THAT BAPTISM, THE BLOOD OF CHRIST WASHES THEM AWAY. SO WHAT'S THE CONCLUSION? FEAR GOD, KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. HAVE YOUR SINS THAT YOU HAVE COMMITTED BE WASHED AWAY IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS THROUGH BAPTISM SO THAT YOU CAN SPEND ETERNITY IN HEAVEN WITH HIM. AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. AUSTIN FOWLER IS A FAMILIAR FACE TO US AS HE'S BEEN WITH BARRY GILREATH IN FABRIC OF FAMILY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. TODAY, HE BEGINS HIS OWN SEGMENT. WE'RE CALLING IT 20/20 VISION. AND HE'S TALKING ABOUT SEEING GOD'S WORD CLEARLY.

>> IN 2ND TIMOTHY 3:16-17, PAUL RECORDS THIS FOR US WRITING TO THE YOUNG EVANGELIST TIMOTHY: ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD AND IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE COMPLETE, THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK. IF WE'RE GOING TO SEE GOD CLEARLY WITH 20/20 VISION, WE HAVE TO NUMBER ONE MAKE SURE WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS BOOK IS FROM GOD. THIS ISN'T A BOOK JUST MADE UP OF MYTHICAL CREATURES OR MYTHICAL CHARACTERS AND MYTHICAL IDEOLOGIES, BUT THIS IS THE BOOK THAT GOD HAD WRITTEN DOWN FOR US SO THAT WE CAN KNOW HIM, THAT WE CAN KNOW ABOUT THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THAT WE CAN GO LIVE WITH HIM ONE DAY IN HEAVEN. IN 2ND PETER 1:21, IT SHOWS US THAT AS WELL THAT, THAT THESE HOLY MEN OF GOD SUCH AS PAUL AND PETER, THOSE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. SO IF WE WANT TO SEE GOD'S WORD CLEARLY, WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS BOOK IS FROM GOD. IT IS INSPIRED. IT IS FOR US TODAY TO GET TO KNOW HOW TO LOVE GOD AND HOW GOD LOVES US. BUT SECONDLY, IT NOT ONLY TELLS US ABOUT THAT, BUT IT TELLS US THAT IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, AND FOR CORRECTION. NUMBER ONE, IT TELLS US WHAT WE NEED TO BELIEVE. IT IS FOR OUR DOCTRINE. DOCTRINE IS WHAT WE TEACH. THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE IN ACTS 2:42. AND IF WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE STEADFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE, THAT'S WHAT WE ARE TO BELIEVE. THIS BIBLE IS FOR US BECAUSE IT TELLS US WHAT TO BELIEVE. IT TELLS US THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG. IT TELLS US HOW WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE ON THE RIGHT GPS, THAT IS, GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION FOR US TODAY. BUT SECONDLY, IT TELLS US NOT ONLY DOCTRINE, BUT FOR REPROOF. IT TELLS US HOW TO BEHAVE. IT TELLS US, YOU KNOW, HEY, YOU'RE NOT DOING THINGS AS A CHRISTIAN, YOU'RE NOT BEHAVING AS A CHRISTIAN, AND YOU NEED TO CHANGE. IT TELLS US HOW WE NEED TO CORRECT OURSELVES, HOW ALSO TO BE INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. YOU KNOW, MANY TIMES TODAY WHEN WE ORDER SOMETHING OFF AMAZON AND IT REQUIRES SOME ASSEMBLY, WE MANY TIMES JUST TAKE THOSE LITTLE-BITTY DIRECTIONS AND DO WHAT WITH THEM? WE JUST THROW THEM IN THE TRASH, RIGHT? GUYS, WE'RE REALLY BAD ABOUT THAT. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THIS BOOK IS FOR? IT IS OUR INSTRUCTIONS. I'VE HEARD BIBLE PUT THIS WAY: IT IS OUR BASIC INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE LEAVING EARTH. DON'T THROW AWAY THIS BOOK. THIS BOOK SHOULD BE TREASURED IN OUR HEARTS BECAUSE IT IS FROM GOD, BECAUSE IT TELLS US WHAT TO BELIEVE, IT TELLS US HOW TO BEHAVE, AND IT TELLS US HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN. LET'S SEE GOD CLEARLY THROUGH HIS WORD.

>> THANKS, AUSTIN. WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU AS A PART OF GOOD NEWS TODAY. JIM DEARMAN IS GOING TO JOIN US AFTER THIS FREE OFFER.

>> YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FREE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT US. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. AGAIN, THAT'S GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. YOU MAY PREFER TO E-MAIL US AT GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. OR CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-384-7221. THAT'S 1-877-384-7221. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. HEARING FROM OUR AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TO US.

>> YOU CAN ALWAYS GO TO OUR WEBSITE, GNTTV.ORG, CLICK WHERE IT SAYS BIBLE COURSE, AND SIGN UP FOR THE COURSE THERE. NOW JIM DEARMAN HAS SOME SOUND WORDS FOR US ABOUT AN ESCALATOR.

>> HAVE YOU EVER TRIED GOING UP AN ESCALATOR THAT WAS GOING DOWN? WELL, IF YOU'VE EVER SEEN SOMEONE DOING IT, IT'S OBVIOUS THE PERSON IS DELIBERATELY GOING THE WRONG WAY. SUCH A PERSON IS GOING AGAINST THE DESIGN OF THE MANUFACTURER. WELL, THAT PERSON MIGHT SAY, WELL, I USE THE ESCALATOR PROPERLY MOST OF THE TIME, SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH OCCASIONALLY GOING UP THE DOWN ESCALATOR? WELL, IN THE CASE OF THE ESCALATOR, THE ANSWER IS PROBABLY NOTHING. NOTHING'S WRONG WITH IT IN TERMS OF ANY CONSEQUENCES. THE SAME IS NOT TRUE WHEN IT COMES TO LIVING OUR LIVES. DELIBERATELY CHOOSING TO DO RIGHT MOST OF THE TIME MEANS A PERSON IS DELIBERATELY DOING WRONG SOME OF THE TIME. AND SUCH AN ATTITUDE WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD. YOU SEE, GOD EXPECTS US TO STRIVE TO DO RIGHT ALL THE TIME. NOW, THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT WE CAN BE SINLESS, BUT THAT WE SHOULD MAKE THAT OUR GOAL. JOHN REMINDS US, BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN. IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE NO SIN, WE DECEIVE OURSELVES, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US. IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, 1ST JOHN 1:8-9. WHAT COMFORTING ASSURANCE WE FIND IN THOSE WORDS FOR THE CHRISTIAN WHO IS STRIVING ALWAYS TO DO GOD'S WILL.

>> MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M OLD, BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN TEMPTED TO GO THE WRONG WAY ON AN ESCALATOR. THANKS, JIM. ERIC GARNER SITS DOWN WITH BARRY GILREATH, AND THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT EMOTIONAL ABUSE.

>> ERIC, IT'S SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU WITH US ON THIS SEGMENT OF FABRIC FAMILY, AND APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SEGMENT. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ABUSE, SOMETHING THAT AFFECTS FAMILIES. AND SPECIFICALLY IN THIS SEGMENT, WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT EMOTIONAL ABUSE. AND I KNOW THAT IN YOUR POSITION, WORKING WITH YOUNG FOLKS AS YOU DO, AS AN ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN A HIGH SCHOOL, I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH UM A LOT OF ISSUES RELATED TO THE FAMILY, AND THIS IS SOMETHING THAT CAN COME UP FROM TIME TO TIME, CERTAINLY WITH KIDS. BUT WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT EMOTIONAL ABUSE. AND I THOUGHT I MAYBE WOULD

BEGIN BY JUST ASKING YOU TO DEFINE THAT SO THAT FOLKS UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

>> SURE. EMOTIONAL ABUSE IS TYPICALLY NOT PHYSICAL, BUT IT'S MORE OF AN ABUSE THAT SHOWS ITSELF IN BEHAVIORS THAT ARE CONTROLLING OR MANIPULATING OR BEHAVIORS THAT SEEK TO SHOW A SUPERIORITY.

>> WHAT ARE SOME BEHAVIORS THAT WE MIGHT ASSOCIATE WITH SOMEONE WHO IS BEING EMOTIONALLY ABUSED?

>> YEAH. THOSE WHO ARE BEING EMOTIONALLY ABUSED, THEY TYPICALLY WILL DISPLAY LOW SELF-ESTEEM SIGNS, SOME VICTIMIZATION, A LOT OF BEING TO THEMSELVES, ISOLATION, THINGS OF THAT NATURE. AND THAT SPANS ACROSS ALL TYPES OF ABUSE. AND THOSE BEHAVIORS FROM THE ABUSER ARE SHOWN IN JUST BELITTLING AND HUMILIATING AND HARSH SARCASM, CONTROLLING, THOSE TYPE OF BEHAVIORS.

>> IN YOUR ROLE AS SOMEONE WHO'S IN ADMINISTRATION IN A HIGH SCHOOL SETTING, DO YOU SEE KIDS FROM TIME TO TIME THAT YOU JUST OBSERVE THEIR BEHAVIORS, AND YOU ARE ABLE TO GET A GOOD IDEA ABOUT THE KIND OF HOME THIS CHILD IS GROWING UP IN?

>> OH, ABSOLUTELY. WHEN YOU'RE IN MY PROFESSION AND YOU'VE DONE IT AS LONG AS I HAVE, THERE ARE SIGNS, THERE ARE THINGS THAT DRAW YOUR ATTENTION THAT YOU PROBABLY RECOGNIZE THAT THE AVERAGE PERSON WOULDN'T BECAUSE YOU DO WORK IN THAT SETTING. SO THERE ARE CERTAIN SIGNS AND CERTAIN BEHAVIORS AND CERTAIN TELLTALE FACTORS THAT WILL PROMPT US TO INVESTIGATE AND TO ASK QUESTIONS AND TO ENGAGE THAT STUDENT OR THAT CHILD.

>> IS THERE A DISTINCTION THAT YOU WOULD MAKE BETWEEN MAYBE SOMEONE WHO HAS AN OCCASIONAL OUTBURST OF ANGER VERSUS SOMEONE WHO REALLY HAS A PROBLEM WITH THIS AS FAR AS INTIMIDATION OF OTHER PEOPLE, MAYBE THEIR SPOUSE OR THEIR CHILDREN?

>> SURE. YOU KNOW, THE DISTINCTION I THINK IS IN THE WORD THAT YOU USED PROPERLY. IT'S OCCASIONAL. IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT'S HABITUAL OR SOMETHING THAT'S PERPETUAL OR SOMETHING THAT'S CONSTANT. I THINK WE ALL HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CONTROL OUR EMOTIONS.

>> LOSING OUR TEMPER.

>> LOSING OUR TEMPER AT SOME POINT. YOU KNOW, PAUL SAID IN GALATIANS CHAPTER 6, BRETHREN, IF A MAN BE OVERTAKEN IN A FAULT, YE WHICH ARE SPIRITUAL. SO WE ALL HAVE BEEN VICTIM TO BEING OVERTAKEN IN A FAULT, SOMETHING COMING UPON US SUDDENLY FROM AN EMOTIONAL PERSPECTIVE THAT THAT MAY RESULT IN AN EMOTIONAL OUTBURST; BUT THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE PERPETUATED HABITUAL BEHAVIOR THAT IS INTENTIONAL AND THAT IS ONGOING AND THAT IS PURPOSEFUL.

>> SURE. WELL, LET ME FRAME IT IN THIS WAY. WHY DO YOU THINK SOME PEOPLE ARE MORE PRONE TO ENGAGING IN THIS TYPE OF ABUSE OF OTHERS,

WHETHER IT'S LIKE I SAID, DOMESTIC, OR YOU KNOW, WHAT IS IT? IS IT THE WAY THEY WERE RAISED? IS IT SOME KIND OF PERSONALITY FAULT THEY HAVE?

>> IT COULD BE. IT COULD BE BECAUSE THEY WERE ABUSED. YOU SEE THAT OFTEN IN ABUSERS. LATER YOU COME TO FIND OUT THROUGH SOME INVESTIGATION AND SOME FAMILY HISTORY OBSERVATIONS THAT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN ABUSED. THEY MAY HAVE BEEN IN A SITUATION WHERE THEY'VE NEVER HAD CONTROL. AND SO THIS IS AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR THEM TO BE ABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES TO EXHIBIT SOME TYPE OF CONTROL. WE'VE SEEN THAT. JUST MAY BE A PERSONALITY DISORDER, RIGHT? IT JUST MAYBE A MENTAL ISSUE THAT THEY'RE GOING THROUGH. OR SELF-ESTEEM, THEY MAY HAVE VERY LOW SELF-ESTEEM. AND WE KNOW THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOW SELF-ESEEM OFTEN WILL DENIGRATE OTHERS IN ORDER TO ELEVATE THEMSELVES.

>> WHAT IS IT THAT YOU THINK MAYBE CONTRIBUTES TO SOME PEOPLE AS THEY'RE BEING ABUSED, IT HAS A GREATER EFFECT PERHAPS ON SOME THAN IT DOES OTHERS? IS IT JUST SOMEONE'S PERSONALITY THAT, YOU KNOW, IF THEY'RE JUST A MEEK PERSON, THEY'RE MORE SUBJECT TO BEING ABUSED? WHAT ARE SOME FACTORS THAT COME TO MIND?

>> THEY VARY. AND IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE COULD NAIL DOWN, YOU KNOW, IF IT'S CONSISTENT THROUGH EVERY CASE. BUT IT CHANGES SO OFTEN. SOME ARE STRONG AND THEY PERSEVERE THROUGH IT AND THEY ADDRESS IT, SOME OTHERS WILL COUNT THEMSELVES HOPELESS THROUGH IT, AND THEY FEEL LIKE THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN DO, AND THEN STILL OTHERS, THEY BLAME THEMSELVES. YOU KNOW, THEY TAKE THE FAULT. THEY SAY, WELL, I'M AT FAULT AND THEY GUILT THEMSELVES INTO BELIEVING THAT THEY ARE WORTHY OF THE ABUSE THAT THEY'RE RECEIVING. SO THERE'S NO ONE FACTOR; THERE ARE MANY. IT'D BE NICE IF WE COULD CORNER IT DOWN TO ONE.

>> SURE. WELL, WHAT ARE SOME SCRIPTURES THAT COME TO MIND THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL OR HELPFUL? IT COULD BE FOR THE ONE WHO IS AN ABUSER OR THE ONE WHO'S BEING ABUSED.

>> A COUPLE COME TO MY MIND. I THINK ABOUT, AND YOU'LL RECALL, AHASUERUS AND VASHTI IN ESTHER, HOW HE WANTED TO PARADE HER IN FRONT OF EVERYONE. YOU KNOW, THAT WAS A FORM OF HUMILIATION, AND SHE DIDN'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT. AND WE CAN ALL READ THAT OCCASION AND KNOW THAT HE WAS WRONG IN DOING THAT. I CONSIDER HANNAH AND PENINHAH WHEN THE BIBLE CALLS HER HER ACCUSER IN 1ST SAMUEL 1:6 AND FOLLOWING. BUT THEN YOU EVEN HAVE FAVORITISM IN GENESIS 25:28 WITH JACOB AND ESAU. YOU HAVE ISAAC AND REBEKAH, THEY BOTH SHOW FAVORITISM TOWARD THEIR SONS. AND SO THAT'S A FORM OF ABUSE. THAT IS A FORM OF ABUSE, SHOWING FAVORITISM. AND SO THOSE WILL BE SOME INSTANCES RIGHT OFF THE BAT THAT WE COULD USE AS A PROHIBITION AGAINST. BUT THEN THERE ARE PASSAGES, HOW HUSBANDS ARE TO TREAT THEIR WIVES, COLOSSIANS 3:19, I BELIEVE IT IS, EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5. WE UNDERSTAND THOSE PASSAGES. EPHESIANS 6:4 WITH CHILDREN, HUSBANDS AND FATHERS TREATING THEIR CHILDREN PROPERLY, COLOSSIANS 3:19 AND FOLLOWING. AND SO WE HAVE PASSAGES. AND THEN WE ALSO HAVE NOT ONLY DIRECT PASSAGES THAT ADDRESS HOW WE ARE TO ACT, BUT THEN WE CAN SURVEY THE BIBLE AND FIND OCCASIONS WHERE WE SEE THIS IN ACTION, WE SEE PEOPLE BEING LOVING AND BEING SELFLESS AND BEING

FORGIVING AND BEING HUMBLE AND BEING MEEK. AND OF COURSE, OUR SAVIOR IS THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF ALL OF THOSE THINGS. AND SO WE HAVE PASSAGES IN THE BIBLE THAT DISPLAY THOSE CHARACTERISTICS THAT WILL HELP US TO NOT BE ABUSERS AND ALSO THOSE THAT CAN HELP US DEAL WITH BEING ABUSED.

>> WELL, ERIC, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US ON THIS BRIEF SEGMENT OF FABRIC OF FAMILY. AND HOPEFULLY, SOME OF THE THINGS WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT TODAY GET FOLKS TO THINKING ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, VERY SERIOUS SUBJECT OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE.

>> THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.

>> THAT WAS SOME GREAT INSIGHT FROM A MAN WITH EXPERIENCE. GET OUT YOUR BIBLES, BECAUSE IN JUST A MOMENT, WE'LL HAVE OUR BIBLE QUESTION FROM HEBREWS 13 FOR ANTHONY AND TROY.

>> (SINGING)

>> NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY AND TROY: DOES HEBREWS 13:17 REFER TO JESUS, OR DO WE NEED TO OBEY SOMEBODY ELSE IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS?

>> OUR QUESTION FOR TODAY IS, DOES HEBREWS 13:17 REFER TO OTHERS, OR DOES IT REFER TO JESUS? IS THERE SOMEBODY ELSE THAT WE NEED TO OBEY WHEN IT COMES TO SPIRITUAL MATTERS AS WELL, OR IS IT ONLY JESUS, PERTAINING TO THIS VERSE?

>> OKAY. WELL, AS ALWAYS, YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK AT THE CONTEXT OF A VERSE. AND LET'S JUST GO AHEAD AND READ THAT VERSE. HEBREWS 13:17 SAYS, OBEY THOSE WHO RULE OVER YOU AND BE SUBMISSIVE, FOR THEY WATCH OUT FOR YOUR SOULS AS THOSE WHO MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNT. LET THEM DO SO WITH JOY AND NOT WITH GRIEF, FOR THAT WOULD BE UNPROFITABLE FOR YOU. AND THEN IF YOU JUST BACK UP AND LOOK AT THE CONTEXT, I MEAN, IT'S TALKING ABOUT JESUS CHRIST. VERSE 8, JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER. THEREFORE BY HIM LET US CONTINUALLY OFFER THE SACRIFICE, VERSE 15. SO IT IS TALKING ABOUT JESUS IN THE CONTEXT, BUT YET THERE MUST BE SOME CONFUSION ABOUT, OKAY, ARE WE STILL TALKING ABOUT JESUS, OR ARE WE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE?

>> RIGHT. I THINK THIS PERSON THAT IS ASKING THE QUESTION HAS THE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT, YES, WE OBEY CHRIST AND WE OBEY HIS GOSPEL. BUT THEN THIS VERSE, THEY SEE IT, AND THEY'RE LIKE, OKAY, SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE OUT OF PLACE BECAUSE I DON'T THINK IT'S IN REFERENCE TO CHRIST, BUT WHO IS IT IN REFERENCE TO? AND WHEN YOU JOIN ANOTHER VERSE WITH IT, ACTS 20:28, YOU CAN SEE THERE THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ELDERS, RIGHT? SO THIS IS VERY DESCRIPTIVE OF WHAT ELDERS WOULD BE DOING. THEY'RE OVERSEEING THE FLOCK AND THEY'RE SHEPHERDING THE FLOCK. AND SO THE ELDERS HAVE AUTHORITY IN THE LOCAL CONGREGATION. SO WHEN THEY SAY, HEY, WE WANT TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS, WELL, THEY'VE PUT THAT IN PLACE, AND THEREFORE WE OUGHT TO

ABIDE IN IT AND OBEY THOSE WHO HAVE THE RULE OVER US. OR MAYBE WE'RE MEETING ON SUNDAY NIGHT. THINGS LIKE THAT.

>> EXACTLY. AND I THINK YOU GET THERE BECAUSE OF WHAT THE GRAMMAR IS EVEN IN THE ENGLISH. AND EVEN IF YOU GO BACK AND LOOK AT THE GREEK, IT CHANGES FROM A SINGULAR, TALKING ABOUT JESUS, TO A PLURAL. AND EVEN IN THE GRAMMAR, I MEAN, OBEY THOSE WHO RULE OVER YOU AND THEY WATCH OUT FOR THE FLOCK. SO EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T HAVE IT SAYING ELDERS THERE, AS YOU SO WELL SAID, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ELDERS, BECAUSE EVEN IN 1ST PETER CHAPTER 5, HE CALLS THEM THE OVERSEERS THERE.

>> RIGHT. AND THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, RIGHT? YOU HAVE TO COME TO THE CONCLUSION, OKAY, THERE'S ONLY ONE JESUS CHRIST, SO THIS CAN'T BE IN PLURAL FORM, TALKING ABOUT -

>> MULTIPLE JESUSES.

>> EXACTLY. AND SO THERE'S ONLY ONE. THIS CAN'T BE IN REFERENCE TO HIM. IT HAS TO BE IN REFERENCE TO THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT WE'RE SEEING HAVING ANY KIND OF AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH, AND THAT WOULD BE THE ELDERS AS WELL, THE OVERSEERS, THE SHEPHERDS, HOWEVER YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORD THAT. THAT'S WHO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE.

>> SO IS THERE SOMEBODY ELSE THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO OBEY OTHER THAN JESUS? WELL, JESUS, OF COURSE, IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH. BUT AS YOU SO WELL SAID, THERE ARE ALSO OVERSEERS, THERE ARE SHEPHERDS - THAT'S ALL THE SAME WORD - THAT OVERSEE OUR SOUL. SO THEY DO HAVE AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH.

>> RIGHT. AND THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THEY GET THE RIGHT TO CHANGE WHAT CHRIST HAS PUT IN PLACE.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT HE'S SAYING AT ALL. SO THEY STILL HAVE TO ABIDE BY WHAT GOD, THEY RULE AND THEY GOVERN BASED UPON WHAT GOD HAS PRESENTED FOR US IN HIS WORD.

>> AMEN.

>> THANKS, GUYS. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ALWAYS CHECK ALL RELIGIOUS TEACHING, THE TEACHING WE DO AND THAT YOU HEAR FROM OTHERS, COMPARE IT AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD TO SEE IF THESE THINGS ARE TRUE, ACTS 17:11. LOOK AT THE CONTEXT TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE NOT PULLING PASSAGES OUT OF THEIR CONTEXT AND THEY ACTUALLY MEAN WHAT THEY SAY THEY MEAN. AND YOU CAN WATCH OR LISTEN TO OUR PROGRAM AGAIN IF YOU NEED TO HEAR IT AGAIN, MAYBE HAVE SOME EXTRA TIME TO CHECK THE SCRIPTURES FOR YOURSELF. YOU CAN DO THAT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, OUR APPS, OR OUR PODCASTS. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, CONTACT US. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. REMEMBER THAT WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY