

Pine Valley 2009 The Remnant Disc 2

Wed, Dec 27, 2023 3:21PM 1:19:34

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

years, man, christ, jesus, god, jerry, evangelicals, christians, told, christianity, word, life, lord, christian, people, frank, boys, church, black hole, fire

SPEAKERS

Pete McKenzie, Jerry Leachman



Pete McKenzie 00:00

Thank you. We thank you for them lots of times when you hear guys speak, you go up to him. So you remind me of this guy and you remind me of that guy. And I'm just hoping whoever I remind them I was worth a flip but sometimes they are and sometimes they're not. But I can truthfully say that Jerry Leachman, nobody reminds me of Jerry Leachman. Jerry Leachman is his own personality, his own guy. He always has been and always will be. And, and there's there's things about Jerry that are just different. And, and I mean, in a really good way. And yeah, we're gonna stay away from that tonight as best we can. I come out on the losing end of that every time. But, but Jerry, I tell guys around they asked me well, can you recommend Oh, can you speak now I'm busy. Can you recommend somebody I say Yeah, but you know, he's, he's half. He's on the other side of the continent. And but if you can get Jared Leachman, he's the best guy I've ever seen ministering to man. And, and I say that unashamedly. I say it because I've heard lots of guys out there. And as far as relating to guys and being anointed to minister, Jerry has been coming to this retreat every other year for the last 15 years. And so he's been to he's gotten to be a part of the band of brothers. And, and Jerry does have a chance to speak all over the country a lot more than I do. He gets a I get I'm getting a broader view these days of the Body of Christ and men all over the place. Jerry has been doing this for years. And Jerry has said that this worship band is the best he's ever heard. For men and salmon. The band that Sam puts together every year is the best worship band he's heard. But Jerry has a ministry I have a little more time so I couldn't do that this morning. But I want to give you a little bit of Gerry's background. He and Holly moved in. We hired him as a principal of a Christian school back in Alabama in Birmingham. He just graduated from the University of Alabama and played football for Bear Bryant and we hired him as our football coach at our Christian school and we both just got the EverLiving stew kicked out. I was stingier. We were just fresh off the turnip truck both. I was fairly new Christians. And we just kind of got in in some ways with the kids. We were great. I mean, we were gifted we we love kids, we ministered to kids. But with the older guys in the church and the boards and those kinds of things, we got their allowance to kick that out. So we didn't know our way around the block. We learned a lot. And I think they ran both I was all for it was for it was over. Jerry and Holly moved in across the hall from us. And we had Chris and Chris was three years old and about not too long after they moved in. They had Josh and that's another story of us in the in when Josh was born, but Jerry, Jerry went on from there and he coached down in Montgomery in a school he

came back up to Birmingham, he worked executive in a steel company went out to the came out here to California, northern California and ran a Christian camp out there for a couple of years came down to in the mid 80s and came down to Southern California and we had a chance to live together with our families Rocky and Sally if you can imagine the you know, two nitros and glycerin living together. We all were living there together and Jerry had just trying to figure out what he's gonna do with his life and, and I was over at his house one day and some guys back in Washington DC we're trying to get him to come back there and work with the fellowship fellowship with the guys that put on the international prayer breakfast every year. And and they have an unbelievable worldwide ministry and not with just politicians, but with just power people in people of influence all over the world. And that told Jerry at that time, I said, Jerry, God has gifted you and called you to ministry and to live on support, basically. And in Jerry and like a lot of guys that are called like Mike was, you know, most guys don't want to say, Well, I just want to live out there and support and raise money and ask people for money. That's a hard thing for a guy to do. And Jerry resisted that. But he went back to Washington. And that was in 19. I believe about 85. Jerry, when they're around 8586. And the what what's happened in Jerry and Holly's life in the last 22 or three years has been absolutely amazing. I was back there with him a few years ago just following him around in his ministry and you know, he has Bible studies all over Washington DC. He has a journalist, study a TV journalist study with a lot of the guys from Fox News and he personally led several of them to Christ. And if he wants to talk about that he can but and he's got he teaches probably the largest men's Community Bible study in the country on Tuesday nights back there. He's been a chaplain for the Washington Redskins for the last 12 or 13 years. Anytime they have a big Christian guy Gathering data we want Jerry to either come in open come and speak or come in close and give the invitation or all the above so it and then they've had ministries in the White House and his wife Holly is meets with First Ladies and and prays for him and and knows him personally. We were praying right now for her and to get to know the President first lady and to see if God will open that door. So I could go on and on. But I want Jerry and I had been, as I said friends for since 19, probably 72 or three and I am really because Jerry, I'll be honest with you, he didn't take out many speaking engagements. So I'm always humbled and honored when he is willing to come out and be with us at our retreat So this morning we gave him a really warm Band of Brothers welcome let's give him another one tonight when he's coming up here okay

P

Pete McKenzie 06:08

right

P

Pete McKenzie 06:15

Father, we, we want to we came up here this weekend for to be ministered to. We came up this weekend to be challenged. We came up this weekend to meet personally with you and we just pray for Jerry right now that you would anoint him more powerfully than ever. And he would sent your hand of power. We probably should just give him favor at the throne of God as He speaks to us. We pray that you'd give him power in our lives as he's given you power and his and we look forward to what you're going to do in Jesus name. Amen.

J

Jerry Leachman 06:45

That's yours. Okay, thanks. Am I on voice? Hey. Well, Mike, what a story. I didn't know. I didn't

know how that ended up.

J

Jerry Leachman 06:58

I met with you last year. And I was wondering how you were going to end up dude. I liked that. Discerning God's will now you're in that rich guys neighborhood. I'm sure I can just see Mike driving in every night Dear Lord, these are my peoples. My people.

J

Jerry Leachman 07:20

Guys have a skewed way of trying to discern God's Will I knew a guy one time on a bus and there was about a 450 pound gal sitting to the left of him and then a hottie hot hot one on the right of him at bus took a right hand turn and he leaned left toward the big ol galley said Dear Lord, keep that thing turned the other way. And he leaned toward that hot he said father made Thy will be done.

J

Jerry Leachman 07:57

Sometimes finding the Lord's wills not all that complicated. I've been through six Redskins coaches. First time I spoke to the Redskins as the 1992 when we won the Super Bowl up in Minneapolis. And then Joe left and started the race team. And First Year Won Daytona which is a Super Bowl of NASCAR racing. Then he came back. Its first year back we want only five games. Now this man is in the Hall of Fame of Kent and he's won three Super Bowls went to a fourth. And he came to me about midseason when we hadn't even got up to five wins yet. And he said I need to confide in you. Can you sit here my chaplain? I'm at the top. I have nobody to talk to. But you on this. I'm not sleeping at night. I'm miserable. I've never lost this is the hardest thing I've been through in my competitive career. I need a word from God. You're my chaplain. Will you take a week and pray about it and give me a word from God? I said coach, I have a word from God for you right now. He said what I said Coach Gibbs you need to win more football games

J

Jerry Leachman 09:23

here's some things you don't need to pray about. You know what you're there to do? Go do it. Now I tell you Pete's prophesy over me scared me to death Pete was the first one that knew I was going into ministry. You know you guys ask your friends to pray for you. You better watch out. He came over I was laying on the on the couch and Brea having a quiet time in the sports page of the Los Angeles Times. I was telling some guys when I first became a Christian I had When my best friend was a former Marine, he just got out so he was still all tournament tough from the Marines and we were both new started competing because I was just off the ballclub at Alabama so we were in still in that high compete mode. And we started competing in Christianity. Believe it or not, we were so new so dumb, so green. We started competing about times. What time you get up today. Five, when you get up 430 You know, stuff like that. And finally, I couldn't take it. I need more sleep than he does. I mean, he just he doesn't you know, some people are wired different. He doesn't need but about four and a half, five hours of sleep

a day. Tiger Woods is like that good to go. Finally, I thought I got a great way I can solve this whole thing. I nicknamed my bed the word. So when he said Where were you at 530 this morning? I said, bro, that was in the Word. Are you lying to me? I'm not lying. I love the word.

J

Jerry Leachman 11:06

It's amazing. God can use an add guy like me. I mean, I live in the present dude. You know, but I get to meet new people every day. You know, ones that I've already known. 20 years and you are? Oh yeah, I know you. But my motto has been for years. If you don't care where you are, you're never lost works for me and was hosting a table of ambassadors at the Presidential prayer breakfast one year and we were laughing it up and having a great time. I like to make people laugh. Mother Teresa said joy is the net we reel souls in on. Christ was full of joy. Christ said that disciples, I want you all to have my joy. Now you never see in the Bible where somebody says excuse me, your joy. I mean, they never question he obviously he had joy about him. So this guy in charge of the presidential Prayer Breakfast he came up to me says you know, you're really pretty good with these guys. You know how to connect with them on a man to man human basic level, you're able to see through their high position and just meet with them. I said, matter of fact, I think you have a gift. There's a boy in you that seems to connect with the kid and other grown men. That said, thanks. He said, Well, look, there's a group I want you to meet with. Each one of these men has at least no, this is an absolutely true story. I'm not embellishing this one bit. You know, like all that stuff. Pete says all the time. And he said each one of these men has a minimum of 10,000 people under their authority. They meet on Massachusetts Avenue. We call that embassy row in Washington. And he said they're just a scourge. They're flat. They're like club soda with no bubbles. They need a shot. And you're the guy that just give them a shot. I said When did they meet he said to is the Tuesday morning prayer group. Cosmos Club. Well, I didn't know what the cosmos Club was. I was brand new to Washington. Been there going on 30 years now but could have been a soccer club for all I knew. Well. Turns out I go down to the cosmos club and it looks like a Victorian Castle surrounded by enormous custom made wrought iron gates and fences with Butler's if the door doorman taking people out of gentleman out of cars. I went in there and all these Nobel Prize, Kissinger, people like that their pictures are up and I asked his butler at the door said Who are these gentlemen? He says they're members of this club. This is the cosmos club, sir. I said, Well, I'm here to meet with the Tuesday group. Where do they meet? Now I'm thinking my friend has introduced me and all the tracks agrees, right. I mean, they say in the military, if you walk around with a clipboard and a pen yak like you know what you're doing. He says, Lay me over by that white marble fountain. I said thank you. So I walk over there. And these guys are sitting in Blazers a lot of them have metals on I don't really know what it is. They didn't look like military guys to me. But I think I guess this is this powerful Tuesday group. I shake their hand and sit down. I'm like, grinning at them like a hound dog. How you doing? You know? You see where this is headed. I sat there about 15 minutes and these guys are using at syllable words. You know, I would understand a little bit of it. And finally after about 15 minutes, there's a gentleman at the end of this table with a red blazer with metals all over it. He looks at me says Well, Jerry, tell us kind of what you do. I said you guys know what I do. Well update us on something you've done lately. You You got it. I preached Christ to those guys for 15 minutes and what I could see him doing all the world, people responding to Christ needing the Christ pumped up about Christ. And you know what? They didn't have any bubbles. And then they were looking at me and I thought, I looked at the guy that had a table. I said, Am I in the wrong group? And he said, I said, You guys ever heard of me? No, ever heard the president? Presidential prayer breakfast? Never in my life. I said, so I just kind of joined up a wrong group

and sit here and I've been telling you all about Jesus 15 minutes. He said, that's about it. I said, What kind of group is this? He said, We're world renowned scholars. These are all academic metals. So it's no kid

J Jerry Leachman 15:48

got to be an algebra. Didn't even cheat would have been a couldn't. They said, Well, you might as well stay and finish breakfast. I was so humiliated. You know, my heart was racing, because of the embarrassment. And so I told a white lie that I just looked at my watch, and I gotta go. And I walked out in the parking lot. And I prayed a prayer by myself. God, I'm so embarrassed. Maybe I'll put this in my book one day accidental evangelism or something like that? Well, I tried to forget about it thinking that I was in kind of in trouble down on Cosmos club. Three weeks later, my wall phone in the kitchen rings and I pick it up. Voice goes Jerry Leachman, I go, yes. He said, This is Colonel. So Ansel, I said, Colonel, I'm sorry, I get a lot of calls. Could you help me out there a little bit. He said, The cosmos club. I'm like, Oh, man. Are we going to court?

J Jerry Leachman 16:53

He said, Jerry, I head up the group. He said, I just have to report back to you. When you were gone, we had the most unbelievable discussion. None of us knew exactly what in the world you were talking about. We just kept hearing Jesus like every three sentences. He said, But you were so fired up and pumped up. We just had to admit even though we didn't get what you were saying we kind of had a lift. After you were with us. I just want you to know this absolutely. Tree said the men like you. We voted. You're in the group.

J Jerry Leachman 17:32

I'm not kidding. I met with those scholars for years. And I would sit there not having a clue what they were discussing until they said you're up I go, I'm on good. And they just about all found Jesus because he's even smarter than they are in me. Well, what I want to say is is God uses people is a use and you. Pete and I had a mentor, Mr. Borland. He said, Boys, God uses people is a use and you. He even made us witness to Bear Bryant. He said, Have you all been witnessing to everybody over there at Brian hall that serves all steak every night? And we said Yes, sir. He says Now, tell me about the time you shared the gospel with Coach Bryant said, Well, we haven't gotten to that yet. He said, What are you afraid of? And we just went yeah. Coach Bryant was such a wonderful mentor to us and a teacher. He used to say the same thing after the coaches named the lineups before we went out the tunnel and went out on the field to get the bad guys he didn't know you boys are my boys. Now what once you boys to speak politely to the refs, you treat those referees with utmost courtesy. He said, Now if you fight you come out of the game. My boys don't fight. You'd never see an Alabama team flag. He said now you fellas on the offensive side of the line. When the ball snapped. I want you to fire off like a guided missile. knock somebody on their butt. Reach out your right hand help them up and tell him you'll be right back

J Jerry Leachman 19:21

and he said now you skill belt fellas. You guys that actually get to touch football. If you should, by chance, get in the endzone. Just act like you've been there before. Okay. You know, Paul said you have many teachers in Christ. But I'm your daddy. I'm your daddy. Now your dad he's the one even if you go to prison, he's gonna come and talk to you through the chicken wire and you're still his boy. You know Christ wants to hook up with all you boys.

J Jerry Leachman 19:57

All you boys I look out there and I see just a bunch of boys.

J Jerry Leachman 20:05

He wants to hook up with each and every one of you wherever you are. You have a lot of people trying to tell you what to do. And so we'll give you free advice, paid advice. But he's your daddy. We all need a daddy. I think that's why I signed with Alabama. I was looking for a daddy. Then I found a heavenly Father. That's why when Pete and I are traveling together, they said, You guys look like brothers. I said, I'll tell you a riddle. We have different moms, but we got the same father. Now figure that one out. Then they can't we share Christ with. Now I want to report in to you tonight. I'm gonna give you this brother prayed for a message for these times. I'm gonna report into you tonight. And then I'm gonna give you two lessons out of the book of Daniel. You talk in the morning. I mean, tomorrow, one tomorrow morning. And then once more afternoon you talk about a man who lived out his faith in the middle of a completely secular society were their boys. Stop talking about a Christian country. I got a I got a notebook from some ministry. In the mail, you know, all that ministry stuff that goes around. And I opened it up it says, seven steps to win your city for Jesus. And I thought is this guy kidding? When has any city ever been completely won for Jesus? Never. It's never taught in the Bible. The Bible teaches that there will always be a remnant times of revival throughout history. But in between the times of revival, there will be a remnant. A band of brothers. Now hear this. It's always the remnant that saves the city. Christians are whining, they're complaining. They're blaming all the bad guys, all the liberals. You know, my wife's very close friends with Hillary Clinton. Got a letter from Hillary last week from the State Department. I've met Christians that hate that. Hate it. You know what? Those Christians need to come to Jesus. I'm praying that even the Christians would come to Jesus, not only the Muslims, the Jews and the Buddhists. Let's pray the Christians would find Jesus. How do you I want to ask you a question. How do you think they prayed for Paul Saul before he became Paul?

J Jerry Leachman 22:42

Lord kill at best. Door number one or door number two, you're in one of the other. Now I want to I want you to know something. Jesus Christ said the gates of hell would not prevail against his church. The only thing you're voting on this weekend as if you're part of the remnant or not, I told you this morning from the Death of a Salesman Willy Loman had all the wrong dreams and he didn't know who he was. We are truly praying for every man here. When you leave tomorrow evening at five o'clock. You'll have all the right dreams and you'll know who you are. Now, I'll give you a preview. You'll never know truly who you are until you know who's you are. I knew I was the member of an Alabama football team. And when our back was to it, we'd look at each other with tears in her eyes on the go lines come on.

J Jerry Leachman 23:50

Now you say what does that mean? I don't know what it means. But I know exactly what it means. I feel that same way about Christ. Pete and I had a mentor, Mr. Borland. He said boys God uses people is a use and you. He even made us witness to Bear Bryant. He said, have y'all been witnessing to everybody over there at Brian hall that serves all steak every night? And we said Yes, sir. He says Now, tell me about the time you shared the gospel with coach Brian said, Well, we haven't gotten to that yet. He said what are you afraid of? And we just went yeah. Coach Bryant was such a wonderful mentor to us at a teacher. He used to say the same thing after the coaches named the lineups before we went out the tunnel and went out on the field to get the bad guys he'd say now you boys are my boys. Now what once you boys to speak politely to the refs, you treat those referees with utmost courtesy. He said now if you fight you come out of the game my boys don't fight. You'd never see an Alabama team fight. He said now you fellas on offensive side of the line. When the ball snapped, I want you to fire off like a guided missile, knock somebody on their butt, reach out your right hand, help them up and tell him you'd be right back

J Jerry Leachman 25:19

and he said, Now you skill belt fellas, you guys that actually get to touch football. If you should, by chance, get in the endzone. Just act like you've been there before. Okay. You know, Paul said you have many teachers in Christ. But I'm your daddy. I'm your daddy. Now your dad, he's the one even if you go to prison, he's gonna come and talk to you through the chicken. Why are you still his boy? You know, Christ wants to hook up with all you boys. All you boys. I look out there and I see just a bunch of boys. He wants to hook up with each and every one of you wherever you are. You have a lot of people trying to tell you what to do. And so we'll give you free advice, paid advice. But he's your daddy. We all need a daddy. I think that's why I signed with Alabama. I was looking for a daddy. Then I found a heavenly Father. That's why when Pete and I are traveling together, they said you guys look like brothers. I said, I'll tell you a riddle. We have different moms. But we got the same father. Now figure that one out. Then they can't we share Christ with now I want to report in to you tonight. I'm gonna give you the best brother prayed for a message for these times. I'm going to report into you tonight. And then I'm going to give you two lessons out of the book of Daniel. You talk in the morning. I mean, tomorrow, one tomorrow morning. And then one tomorrow afternoon you talk about a man who lived out his faith in the middle of a completely secular society where their boys stopped talking about a Christian country. I got a I got a notebook from some ministry, in the mail, you know all that ministry stuff that goes around. And I opened it up it says seven steps to win your city for Jesus and I thought is this guy Qidan? When has any city ever been completely won for Jesus? Never. It's never taught in the Bible. The Bible teaches that there will always be a remnant times of revival throughout history. But in between the times of revival, there will be a remnant of a band of brothers. Now hear this. It's always the remnant that saves the city. Christians are whining, they're complaining. They're blaming all the bad guys, all the liberals. You know, my wife's very close friends with Hillary Clinton. Got a letter from Hillary last week from the State Department. I've met Christians that hate that. Hate it. You know what? Those Christians need to come to Jesus. I'm praying that even the Christians would come to Jesus not only the Muslims, the Jews and the Buddhists. Let's pray the Christians would find Jesus. How do you want to ask you a question. How do you think they prayed for Paul Saul before he became Paul?

J Jerry Leachman 28:40

Lord kill at best. Door number one or door number two, you're in one or the other. Now I want to I want you to know something. Jesus Christ said the gates of hell would not prevail against his church. The only thing you're voting on this weekend as if you're part of the remnant or not. I told you this morning from the death of the salesman Willy Loman had all the wrong dreams and he didn't know who he was. We are truly praying for every man here. When you leave. Tomorrow evening at five o'clock. You'll have all the right dreams and you'll know who you are. Now, I'll give you a preview. You'll never know truly who you are until you know who's you are. I knew I was a member of an Alabama football team. And when our back was to it, we'd look at each other with tears and around the goal lines come on.

J Jerry Leachman 29:48

Now you say what does that mean? I don't know what it means. But I know exactly what it means. I feel that same way about Christ. As some of you. You ought to ask God tonight Light a fire in you. You have all the right beliefs. You have all the right dreams, but you still don't know who you are because you have no fire. You can say the Apostles Creed and quote scriptures but you don't have a fire. When I became a Christian, I was drawn to some guys because they had something and I didn't know what it was. And I got close to him. And I realized they had the fire. Jesus Christ that I came to bring. Fire, fire, fire. I love guys that are on fire. I hated coaching guys that were on fire. I even coach Christians that knew how to manipulate the Scripture. They lose their guts. They quit in the fourth quarter. They get in the locker room say Dear Lord, we just thank you for this loss. Now go Shut up. No, that's not blasphemy. That prayer only counts. If you left it all out on the field. And you came in a locked room. And you cried because you lost. I love kids that hate loose. Because I'm going to tell you something you can't coach people who don't care. Now you can sit your butts at a retreat like this all you want boys. But if you don't have fire, God can't coach you if you don't care. If you don't care, read the whole Bible 800 times and it won't make one better difference in your life. Before you need any more knowledge. Open up your hearts right now. And say, God, burn me to the stinking ground. And I promise you, you will never regret me telling you that. There's no way you're going to fail in life. There's no way you're not going to count life, you're going to have the right dreams, you're going to know who you are. And you're going to be picking up speed when you cross the finish line. Now if you don't know what I'm talking about, just sit there politely and then go on home later tonight. Probably nothing for you here. Because you're not going to do anything anyway.

J Jerry Leachman 32:19

The whole deal is about to go to hell in a handbasket and God's looking to raise up some people. There's gonna be a revival common boys. Christianity has always loved the crumbling empire. Stop whining. We got game on. Christians are born for moments like this man. Go ahead make my day punk. You're looking down the barrel of a Smith and Wesson, the most powerful handgun in the world. Now did I shoot five or six bullets? I can't remember I'm a little add. I don't have any fear. I'm so fired up and I want you to be fired up. Now you catch it a little of my fire

J

Jerry Leachman 33:08

the distinguishing characteristic of many Christians in the United States is this. They live as if God makes no difference whatsoever in their life. This is what I call practical atheism. They say they're Christians but they live like atheists. But I want you to know, liberal churches in this country. They they have kind of a reverse mission creep instead of being the church's missionary to the world. They are the world's missionary to the church. Don't you let it happen to your church? We are to be missionaries of Jesus Christ to the world all of us. Richard noubar A liberal clergymen said this we believe in a God without wrath bought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment into the ministrations of a Christ without a cross. Now I know you didn't go to seminary, but that's heresy boys. And it's rampid. But listen to what I have to tell you now. You often read that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. Brit Hume gave me a book called What's so great about Christianity. We read it, we've discussed it. It's an amazing book. Not true. Christianity is the fastest growing religion in the world today. I'll give you a report. Islam is second, while Islam grows mainly in reproduction. Which is to say Muslims having large families Christianity spreads through conversion, some by natural means, but mostly through conversion. While Europe has moved away from Christianity and the Christian religion It has been expanding and it's influenced Christianity and Central and South America, Africa and Asia. Europe solid dead. As far as Christianity goes, Islam is the fastest growing religion in Europe. Central and South America, Africa and Asia. Now, the underreported story is now the Middle East. Muslim students are beginning to come to Jesus. I'm on the board of an international ministry and I can't say which one, you probably know if it did say it. So, but they are telling me they're seeing Muslim kids come to Christ. You know, a lot of the Muslim students are starting to take a look at Islam. They take a look at Jesus and the going. Hello. We want Jesus. Now, Joel Rosenberg, as most of us most of you may know who he is, is a friend of mine. We go to the same church in Washington. We were on Nightline a couple years ago with Ted Koppel with our wise we watched the movie about the passion of Christ with Ted Koppel and the Nightline staff. And and he is said reported us that he is also seeing large numbers of Muslim young people coming to Jesus. Jesus Christ is on the march. The question is, are you willing? Are you willing? Despite limitations imposed by the Chinese government, it's estimated that there'll be 100 million new Christians in China worshiping and underground evangelical and Catholic churches at the current growth rate David Aikman says he's a he's also a brother, a journalist from Washington. In his book Jesus in Beijing, China and a few decades will become the largest Christian country in the world. And Korea where Christianity is already outnumbering the Buddha's. There are mega churches with more than 10,000 members, numerous mega churches, the Yodo Full Gospel Church report 750,000 Minister, members, the Catholic Church in the Philippines reports 60 million members and is projected to have 120 million by mid century. What distinguishes Christians in these country is that they immerse themselves in the world of the Bible. A century ago, less than 10% of Africa was Christian Today, nearly 50%. That's an increase from 10,000,019 100 to more than 350 million Christians. Today, Uganda alone has nearly 20 million Christians and is projected to have 50 million. By the middle century, some African congregations have grown so big that their churches are running out of space. While American preachers routinely implore their people to come every Sunday and fill the pews. Some African preachers asked their members to limit their attendance to every second or third Sunday to give others a chance to hear the message. Central and South America. They're witnessing the explosive growth of Pentecostalism. As David Martin shows in his study the tongues of fire. It's partly a shift within Christianity millions of South American Catholics have become evangelical Protestants. In Brazil, for example, there are now 50 million evangelical Protestants whereas a few decades ago, there weren't enough to count. The movement of Catholics into Protestant evangelism shouldn't be considered just

lateral however, as the conversion of lackadaisical nominal nominal Catholics into an active energised faith. Here's the last thing in this portion of my report T brothers. For poor people around the world, the social landscape of the Bible's very familiar they to live in a world of hardship, poverty, moneylenders and lepers. The themes and the effects of exile persecution resonate with them supernatural evil seems real to them. They have little problem and understanding the concept of hell. Some of them even expect miracles of the ancient times to be witnessed in their lifetimes. I remember an African preacher who visited a Church I used to attend in Northern Virginia. He insisted that through the grace of God he had performed innumerable healings and one of the assistant pastors in Virginia took him a bit doubtfully. He pointed the Bible and said young man There's a big difference between you and me. You see this book right here? We believe it. This world of Christianity this third world Christianity, it's coming our way to the United States. South Korea is now the second largest source of Christian missionaries in the world. South Korea has 12,000 missionaries all over the world preaching the gospel. Only in the United only the United States currently sins more, but it's waning. Last year is the first year more young men, more men left the ministry than entered the ministry last year. At one time, Christian missionaries went to the far countries of Africa and Asia where white priests and ropes proclaimed the Bible to wide eyes, uncomprehending brown and black people. In the future, you will see black and brown missionaries proclaim the Bible to wide eyed uncomprehending white people in the West. We might think this preaching will fall on. We hope this preaching does not fall on unreceptive ears. Well, that's what's going on around the world. Jesus Christ and Christianity is exploding. What about here in the United States, in one generation America has experienced a dramatic transformation. From a producing to a consuming society consumerism has had a powerful, transforming effect not merely on our spending habits based on our beliefs, and our values. Consumerism has changed the way our faith looks, believe it or not. Listen to this next quote. We have to we've come to see money as the key to pleasure and pleasure is the key to happiness. This definition of happiness has become the summum bonum. The ultimate American virtue, As one writer put it, quote, If you're not chasing money, what are you chasing? Happiness is the new bottom line. This belief is so much a part of the American culture that even people who should know better get confused. According to a recent study, over a half of the evangelical Christians agree with this statement. Half of the evangelical Christians agree with this statement, quote, the purpose of life is enjoyment and personal, full of quote. You know, this is what psychologists call the empty self. You choose yourself, you choose yourself. You choose yourself and you become empty. We'll compare that to this man.

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Bruce Larsen, who writes devotionals wrote a few paragraphs about his boyhood in Chicago. He said when I was a small boy, I attended a church every Sunday in a big Gothic Presbyterian Church. The preaching was powerful. The music was great, but for me, the most awesome moment of the morning was when the offering was taken 12 solemn men and frocked coded ushers marched lockstep down the aisle to receive brass plates for collecting the offering. These men were serious about their business of serving the Lord in this magnificent house of God. They were professional businessmen from Chicago. One of the 12 busters names was Frank Loesch. He wasn't very imposing looking man, but in Chicago, Frank Loesch was a living legend. He was the man that stood up to Al Capone. In the prohibition years component, Capone's rule was absolute. The local and state police and even the Federal Bureau of Investigation were afraid to oppose him but single handedly, Frank Loesch as a Christian layman, without any government support, organized the Chicago Crime Commission, a group of citizens that was determined to take Mr. pond to court and put him away. During the months

that that crime commission met Frank loach's life was in constant danger. There were threats on lives of his family, his friends, but he never wavered. Ultimately, he won the case against Capone, and was the instrument for removing this blight from the city of Chicago. Frank Loesch had risked his life to live out his faith. Frank lotions part of the remnant. And it's always the remnant that saves the city. God uses people to use a new why not? Eat Sunday at this point of the service. When Frank lotion those ushers would walk down the wild. The aisle my father, who was a Chicago businessman himself never failed to poke me silently and point to Frank Loesch quite often. I could see my father with a tear in his eye and pride in his heart and he would whisper to me that's Frank Loesch. That guy right there. It's Frank love. Boy in this the opposite of the empty self. Isn't this the opposite of narcissism? All this positive self image crap we put on kids I love me. I love myself. I love my picture on the shelf. That's not going to save the city boys. That's not guys like Frank Lopes. You're gonna save any Frank luscious in here

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tonight. You can be if you want to. But you can't be afraid to die.

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You know, we really don't believe the Bible. You think you believe Jesus said this unless a grain of wheat fall to the ground and die can't live again. Who finds his own life shall lose it. He who loses his own life she'll find it. Men of God you guys go around, say a minute God. Well, I'll tell you something. That don't mean a whole heck of a lot. If you fear death, you're not a man of God. You're just talking. We got to say it in Alabama. You can put your shoes in the oven but that don't make them biscuits.

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Frank Lohse was a man of God, just an average guy. But he risked his life his faith was worth his life to it. Those are the kinds of guys I'm talking to those of the men I'm recruiting tonight. Those are the guys I came all the way out here to see if there was anybody like that. I believe Jesus Christ is goes around this world going does anybody believe in me? Frank Loesch was authentic. Aren't people just dying to get around somebody who is for real? And authentic? Aren't people just weary and tired of all this? fakie crap. Specially in the name of Jesus? It makes you puke, doesn't it boys? I'm not trying to put anybody down. I'm just voting. I'm voting. I'm not confused. About who I'm following John Stott, Billy Graham said was the greatest clergyman in the world. Just retired last year. Have you heard of John Stott? Giving his last major address before retiring. The man who many regard as the most celebrated evangelist of the modern era told the crowd at this year's convention in England. I want to share with you where my mind has come to rest as I approach the end of my pilgrimage on the earth. God wants His people to become like Christ. Stott said as he was greeted with a standing ovation. Christ's likeness is the will of God, for the people of God. If we claim to be Christians, we must be Christ like we are to be like Christ in the incarnation. It was unique and in the sense that the Son of God took our humanity to Himself in Jesus Christ. But the amazing grace of God and the incarnation of Christ is to be followed by all of us were to be like Christ in His incarnation. We are to enter into other people's worlds as Christ has entered into our world. What the world is looking for is personal authenticity. God uses people as a use in you. Now, I mentioned to you

this morning. We're in the last third of our roll call tonight together, that I was going to tell you what I see. And others see for the future of evangelicalism in the United States. And our journalists group, the journalist brought this article to our attention, and we've discussed this for a couple of weeks now. And it's an article if you want to get it. I'm gonna read excerpts from it to you tonight and make a few comments and then I got a little lesson for you in the end, and then we'll put it down on the tarmac and hit pause until the morning and then we're going to fire up Let's talk about fire in the morning we're going to talk about Daniel and his three teenage buddies. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. This article is from the Christian Science Monitor. The Christian Science Monitor is out of print now, but their their articles are on the web. Ces.monitor.com. Michael Spencer wrote this March 10 2009. Now Michael is a journalist and he is himself and evangelical. Our group didn't agree with everything Michael said. But we thought most of this stuff sounds just about right. He says this, within two generations, evangelicalism will be a house deserted by half his occupants. And 10 to 20 years half the people that say they're evangelicals are going to quit. Now, let me just tell you what an evangelical is real simply because a lot of people are confused about that people don't like that word, because all the slick alligator shoe salesmen on TV, have given it a bad name. But an evangelical a bible Biblical sense is a person that has Jesus Christ in his heart. He's rolling his dice on Jesus, he's putting his faith to church of Jesus, and the person of Jesus is so important that other people need to hear this message. They need to hear about Christ. People need the Lord. That's what an evangelical is. It's not that complicated at the DNA level, is it? Well, I think there's going to be so much social pressure. You know what, through public relations, they made smoking a worst sin and abortion in our country. I guarantee and marketing there's a book called The 22 Immutable Laws of marketing. And one of the about the second immutable law is the law of perception is stronger than reality. But you get the perception of most American people, and they do have the perception that if you smoke, you're a worse person than that's worse than having an abortion. Hey, check, check this out, mark by word. There's gonna be tremendous social pressure in the days to come to make you ashamed and embarrassed and press you from even naming the name of Jesus. That's why we're here. Now we are. That's why you better get all in or all out. Because I'm telling you a half hearted, you're gonna get rolled like dice. You better pray for the fire. And you better start playing offense and stop playing defense with your faith. And I don't mean an angry militant. I mean, a guy full of the love of Christ, Jesus Christ was the most powerful person that ever lived. He never went after power, he went after love. And in the end, guess what he got both. The collapse will herald the arrival of the anti Christian chapter of post Christian United States and tolerance of Christianity will rise to levels many of us have not believed possible in our lifetimes. Public policy will become hostile towards evangelical Christianity, seeing it as the opponent of the common good. Millions of Evangelicals will quit. Christian media will be reduced if not eliminated, many Christian schools will go on rapid decline. And I'm convinced the grace and the mission of God and Jesus Christ will continue to the ends of the earth. We've already seen, it's not the work of Jesus, it's going to stop. It's a lot of this half hearted part time Christianity, that's going to go ahead and get shot through the head and put out of its misery. Jesus Christ told us it was going to happen this way. 2000 years ago, he said you're the salt of the earth. And if you lose your saltiness, what do you good for? To be trampled on. And that's what's about to happen boys. evangelicals have identified their movement with the culture war. With political conservatism. This will prove to be a costly mistake. Evangelicals will increasingly be seen as a threat to cultural progress. public leaders will consider evangelicals bad for America bad for education, bad for children and bad for society. The Evangelical investment in moral and social and political issues has depleted their resources and expose their weaknesses. The fact is that massive majorities of Evangelicals cannot articulate the gospel with any coherence whatsoever. We fell in the trap of believing in a cause more than believing in a faith evangelicals have failed to pass on to our young people the Orthodox form of faith that can

take root and survive and a secular onslaught. Ironically, billions of dollars have been spent on youth ministers, Christian music publishing and media has produced a culture of young Christians who know next to nothing about their faith except how they feel about. Our young people have deep beliefs about the culture war, but don't know why they should obey Scripture. They don't know essential theology. They don't experience they don't experience spiritual discipline, our community, the coming generations of Christians are going to be monumentally ignorant and unprepared for culture wide pressures. There are only three kinds of churches, consumer driven mega churches, dying churches and new churches. Now let me just discipleship has been lost from our culture and Christ in our country. Now churches that want to share the gospel and reach out, they call themselves seeker friendly churches. Churches want to try to disciple people call themselves teaching churches, you know, the problem was that Jesus said, Go into all the world and make disciples in the first century. If you want to know what he's talking about, what do you have to go back to to figure that out? The first century? What did a first century disciple look like? I'm about to tell you. They never would have thought to separate evangelism and discipleship. That wasn't even a concept. Your coming to Christ should be so profound that you're going to Christ is for Christ is a big deal. If you don't have a lot of going for Christ in your life, you're coming to Christ probably didn't mean a doggone thing to you. They never said, What is the scripture say? They only would say this, what does it mean? Now from the age of five to 12, here's what a first

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century disciple would look like. This is what Jesus was talking about. from five to 12, they began to memorize the Pentateuch. That's the first five books of the Bible. Now, did they memorize all of it are major portions of it? I don't really know. But they sure memorized a lot of it for seven years. You know, when Jesus was baptized, we've all heard if you've been in church, he went out to the desert and he was tempted by the devil three times are most of you kind of familiar with that. That was the Garden of Eden round two. Seriously, in the Garden of Eden, they were attempted, they failed. This was round two, and Jesus had to pass this. Now on the sermons you always hear, he was tempted three times and do you know how the Lord defeated the devil? And the preachers always say, by quoting what the Word of God so you knew that he was quoting from Deuteronomy and has your working knowledge of Deuteronomy. Now, let me tell you, I saw some guys. They were prisoners of wars in Vietnam, and they were interviewed. When they got released, they survived the war was over. The reporter said, What kept you go and said our chapel service? Would they give you a Bible? No. Well, had you have wealth between us, we pretty much reconstructed the book of Matthew. Now when that soldier said that it completely convicted me, this was a while back, I thought, now if I was abandoned brother in that prison with those men, what would my contribution had been? To reconstruct in a book so we could have a chapel service together? Not much. Now this summer, all my men, I gave him the summer challenge. I said, take the summer challenge boys. become a disciple. Why am I talking to you about disciple? You see, the way it's going? I don't even really need to read the rest of the article. You kind of get the drift, right. Get it? I told you how to get it and read it. But you better come a disciple, ask for fire and then come and disciple. If you want to succeed in business or sports or any endeavor in this world, you need a couple of things. You need some ability. You need some motivation and you need product knowledge. You know, the word disciple comes from the word discipline, and in yours over 30 years of counseling, man, I have come to the conclusion. Men don't have discipline problems. They have motivational problems, because you know what? When a guy gets motivated, guess what? He gets automatically discipline. He'll do it. When he really gets motivated and catches fire. He'll We'll do it. Now, I the summer challenge. Those boys memorize the Pentateuch, all my men, we don't

do verses, we do blocks of Scripture so we can make a contribution for in prison, not planning on it. But you never know. But it's not the point. The scriptures are narratives, they spill over one story to the next. And if you just memorize verses, you'll get most of them out of context, or they won't have the pop, because they're all part of a story. So this summer, we're memorizing mostly Matthew chapter six, and Romans eight, the summer challenge then in September, we'll just see who who's who. I used to have kids that report for summer camps that coach I'm gonna start for this team. I said, Oh, yeah, we'll find out son. You show up August 14th. And I'll take a look at you for about a week now tell you if you want to play for this team, because we're gonna see who loves it. We're gonna see who loves it. Anybody can talk. I tell you, if you want to start the for your first stage of being a first disciple, first century disciple, commit yourself to memorizing God's word. The first verse I ever memorized in God's word was Matthew four, four. Does anybody know what it is? Matthew four, four. That's right, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. That's one of the verses Jesus quoted back to Satan when he was tempted. That's how you live every word from the mouth of God. I quote Jesus, I say the name of Jesus, I quote Scripture. It's powerful. It's alive. How can you be a man of God's word if you want to go around saying man of God? That's the second thing I'd ask you. I'm not mocking you. I'm just looking at your jaw jaw and cheek to cheek and say you can go around saying that fellas but if you don't know if you if you're afraid of death, you know man of God. And you can't be a man of God if you don't know God's word. You don't even know the stinking playbook. Can you imagine a football team going out there and the first game of the year and they never went over any plays? Well, maybe you can some teams but you see what happens to don't you commit yourself to fire no matter what it costs you I told you this morning a priority is something you'll pay for or you'll suffer for. Now. If there's nothing in your life that will pay for suffer for that let me correct you. You're not a man of God. You're not anything. There again, you say Aren't you afraid of offending us when you say no? Because if you're not anything, what are you going to do to me? Nothing? Nothing. Yang? I'll do nothing. I fear the man who has fire I know who I know who to fear. You have to have fire. Commit yourself to memorizing God's word become a Jedi Knight for Christ. Why wouldn't you? Sleep walk all through life and then your debt. Are you kidding me? That's all you want. Man, I'm calling you to be all Americans. I didn't come out here to start some damn JV football team. Don't worry about these boys. They hear worse than that in school. Your men tonight fellas. The second stage for a first century disciple age five to 12. They memorize scripture from 12 to 14 they read the wisdom of the sages. Pete and I had a mentor Dr. Barker that did this. We read about CTE stuff. We read about Hudson Taylor. We read about all the great missionaries. Jim Elliot, who was killed by the AKI we read all the wisdom of the sages. They became like brothers to us. And then the third stage of a first century disciple is this. This was optional, you would be observed. And if you were counted, deemed worthy, you had the fire. You'd pay for it, you'd suffer for it. Then you got to enter the third stage. And that would be one of the happiest days of your life. When a rabbi would walk up to you and son, I want you to walk with me. The third stage was walking with a rabbi. And they walked with a rabbi for three years now interestingly enough, how many years did those guys walk with Jesus? Three years he was the ultimate rabbi. That was a first century disciple. Anybody heard lessons like this lately in the evangelical church. I'm giving you the good stuff boys now want to know are you you're with me are you bucking against me at this point I don't even have to talk to you tomorrow if you don't want me to now who's in me well a few of you are well let me close with this you know the alternative I just preached a funeral for a young man I've been chasing around for Christ since high school. Here's the alternative you can either do what I'm telling you and and I'm telling you who the opposition is. I'm telling you what you have to do they have a chance of victory here and you know I'm telling you the truth I'm not talking down to you and saying boys we're all on the same team. I don't want to go out there against the enemy out of shape stupid don't know what we're doing. I want to go out there and

be the best of the best there again please don't be offended at me if you don't want to be the best of the best fine I love can be your friend all that crap. But I go into battle with you honest to god, I'm not kidding. I don't want to go into battle with you. I love you and be your friend. But I don't want to go into battle with all this stuff. My country is country still means something to me. I want to be part of the remnant. I want to be one of the guys that parachutes in here's the with the about the alternative. When Joshua rule the people they lived in peace and Joshua style of leadership, they get some dumb idea go will will. Remember, the Lord said this. Then they get another dumb I will not gods. Joshua was always put to the words and the ways and the sayings of God. Now when Josh when

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he was buried with his father, in the scripture says this, And Judges chapter two so the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua. And all the days the elders who outlived Joshua who had seen all the great works of the Lord which we had done for Israel, Now Joshua, son of non servant of the Lord, what a title How would you servant of the Lord Josh was son of non servant of the Lord died when he was 110 years old, and they buried him. On the border of his inheritance when all the generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord, nor the work which we had done in Israel. Then the children of the Lord did evil in the sight of the Lord and served the devil and demons. And they for sick the Lord, their fathers who had brought them out of land of Egypt, and they followed other gods, from among the gods of the people who were all around them and they bowed down to other gods, and provoked the Lord and anger. They stopped sharing Christ and demonstrating Christ to their young people, and in one generation at all went to hell in a handbasket. That's how quickly it can go down. Now, I had mentioned this morning about that man and Luke, he didn't want to live for the Lord and he got blessed with everything and Lazarus, the poor beggar was at his gate. Jesus told that story to us in Luke chapter 16. Now there was a certain rich man who was clothed and purple and finally open and fared sumptuously every day, and there was a beggar named Lazarus, full of sores who was laid at the gate desiring to be fed with crumbs which fell from the man's table, the rich man's table. Moreover, the dogs came and look the source of the poor man. So it was that the beggar died and he was carried by the angels into heaven. The rich man died and was buried. In Hell, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom and heaven. Then he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus that he may dip his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember, in your lifetime, you received all the good things. You know, according to Jesus, number one, there is a hell. You've heard me say this before I once had a man after I teach on this, he came up and he said, Well, I don't believe in hell. I said, Well, you won't be there three seconds before you entirely change your mind

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He's following me around the rest of the weekend want to be my buddy. But according to Jesus, there is a hell, and people choose to go there. And one thing you don't lose when you end up in hell is your memory. Remember, the Lord said to him, no son, remember, in your lifetime, you had everything. Now, I mentioned this morning, this lady that knows all these languages, and I started talking about this and she, she taught me the difference in Aramaic between the word lost in the word perish. Now, if you're lost the clock still running, you still got a shot.

Mathematically, you're still alive. But once you've perished, that's eternal. It's over. And this word, parish means this. This is the word Jesus used. It means solitary isolation in increasing continual multiplying abundant aloneness forever. Maybe what scientists call a black hole, the opposite of expanding life. It's eternal, imploding, perishing. Let's see what one scientist said about black holes. Quote, a black hole represents the ultimate triumph of gravity in its role as the regulator of a stars lifecycle. when a massive star dies, gravity becomes so strong that the star can't possibly hold itself up. What happens next? We don't know for certain one possible into a massive stars life is total collapse. It's tombstones a black hole and outside you can still feel the gravity from the hole. But you can't see it because gravity prevents light. from escaping from the stars surface black holes contain the strongest gravitational forces known in the universe. Nothing escaped from a black hole, not even light. That's why they call it a black hole. Black holes may form when stars are so overwhelmed by the force of their own weight, they collapse on themselves. are you connecting the dots here? a collapsing star shrinks. And if the core is massive enough, it keeps shrinking to the surface keeps collapsing until the entire star is shrunk to a point. Any light trying to escape outside the world is sucked back into a central point. No one and when she read this, this literally scared the hell out of me. And I mean, this literally, not cursing. Literally, I'm an ordained minister. And when my friend read this to me in my living room, this next sentence I got down on the floor. And I said, Lord Jesus, I feel with every bone in my body. I know you but if I'm deceived in any way, take everything I have. Take my life. Take anything. I just want to know you. I don't want to go to hell. You can say well, I think you're a pansy because I don't even care what you I don't want to go to hell so bad. I don't even care what you think about what I think about it. Now listen to this, no one inside a black hole can communicate with the outside world. He'd be cut off from the universe by the event horizon. A black hole is dead air. It'll never be anything but a black hole. It just sits in space dark, menacing swallowing up any matter that comes into close enough. It's not enough to live life without light. Jesus said he was the light of the world. According to Jesus Hill, is complete darkness. It's a black hole. You'll be there by yourself. No one communicates in you communicate out with no one and you have your memories. I mean this when she said it, I thought this is hell. All questions, no answers by yourself who you chose your whole life. You may say you're a Christian, but you live from me, me, me. I choose me. I choose me. I choose me. I'm not laying my life down for anything. Frank Loesch. That's for somebody else. And in the end, you know what the Lord says? You keep choosing yourself you choose yourself you choose yourself. God finally says you know what? You can have it. You love yourself so much you can be by yourself forever. Now I got a panic attack when she told me that because seriously, I'm kind of claustrophobic and all that. And I thought, thank God for Jesus Christ. I'm so thankful. Does this sound like good news or religion to you? I don't have to go to hell are you kidding me? I like to compete. But I was with some guys at a club in Washington the other day and fired one into the next zip code over a highway. Just looked at it and I look back at my friends and this guy said you're honest to God not mad. We know you like to compete. We know secretly you'd like betas, but you never get mad. I said, the reason I get mad is because I know how to be in hell right now. And I'm not I'm playing golf with you idiots what could go wrong? This to my life. But I want this Jesus Christ didn't just come to save you from hell if you got the definition of what this means in the Aramaic He came to save us from our self. Now I'm I'll read this and send you to bed or out or whatever you do. There's a wonderful book I want all of you to read. I'm having all my men read it. It's called one minute after you die. I don't have the pastor's name on it. But maybe some of the pastors here will know he used to be the pastor of the Moody Bible Church. And these old time pastors. They weren't just pastors. They were no it's not Warren. I study his stuff. It's another one. I don't know. I don't know. Well, we will get it but I have all my men read this one minute after you die. And it's all the teachings about Kahina Shoal. Heaven, Hell, angels. It's all the biblical teachings. What happens to people when they die? So much confusion about this? I find this to be life changing. I know my destination is

one of the reasons I have so little fear. It's one of the reasons I have so much joy that I'm not going to have to be by my stinking self and darkness forever with my memories. I have some memories. I still wish I could forget it. When Dell fashion field was battling a rare brain tumor, the doctors assured him in April that he would be dead before Christmas. When I interviewed him, he told me that he wanted to follow God so fully that while he still had strength that when weakness came he would be able to endure his suffering with confidence. When you come home at night, you can manage to get around your house in the darkness because you've been there so often in the light you know, my best girlfriend back home he was my lieutenant and a large men's Bible study that I teach is dying from cancer. Bill gobble asked me the other day you're playing a lot of golf I said nonsense Mark got sick. We used to call mark the golf bishop. He loved getting the tee times and putting the groups together I'm the kind of guy just call me and tell me where to show up. I don't want to organize. Plus I can organize a two car funeral anyway it's funny since Mark got sick and he's so weak he can't play anymore. We just kind of don't play much anymore. I'm going through this book with him I'm doing life with Mark I'm gonna go with him all the way to the finish line. It's a least I can do. When Dale died November that year, those who were with him report