

>> ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. GO THEREFORE, AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE.

>> MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE OF HIS SAVING FULLNESS SEE, MORE OF HIS LOVE WHO DIED FOR ME.

CLIFF >> HELLO. MY NAME IS CLIFF GOODWIN, AND I WELCOME YOU HERE TODAY FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL. THIS IS OUR TIME TOGETHER THAT WE CAN TAKE OUR BIBLES, WE CAN OPEN THEM AND STUDY FROM GOD'S WORD, SEEKING AND DISCERNING HIS WILL FOR OUR LIVES. HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT A GREAT BLESSING IT IS THAT GOD LOVES MAN SO MUCH THAT HE WOULD REVEAL HIS PERFECT WILL SO THAT YOU AND I COULD KNOW IT? WE CAN KNOW THE MIND OF GOD AS IT IS REVEALED RIGHT HERE IN THE BIBLE. AND THEN WE CAN TAKE THAT INFORMATION AND APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES AND THEREBY BE PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT, BECAUSE OUR GOD IS A GOD OF GRACE, A GOD OF LONGSUFFERING, AND A GOD OF MERCY; BUT HE IS ALSO A GOD OF TRUTH. AND HOW BLESSED WE ARE THAT WE HAVE THE TRUTH RIGHT HERE IN BOOK FORM. TODAY I WANT US TO OPEN OUR BIBLES PARTICULARLY TO PSALM 116 IN A FEW MOMENTS. OUR STUDY WILL BE COMING OUT OF THAT PSALM. BUT FIRST LET ME ENTITLED IT FOR YOU. NOTICE OUR TITLE IS UNFINISHED BUSINESS. UNFINISHED BUSINESS. NORMALLY WHEN WE HEAR THAT TERMINOLOGY, WE MIGHT THINK OF NEGATIVE THOUGHTS. WE MIGHT THINK OF SOMETHING THAT IS UNFINISHED BECAUSE IN THE FIRST PLACE IT HAD EITHER BEEN TOO DIFFICULT OR MAYBE TOO UNCOMFORTABLE. THOSE ARE REASONS OFTENTIMES THAT TASKS ARE OMITTED OR LEFT UNDONE, BECAUSE EITHER IT'S TOO HARD TO GET IT ACCOMPLISHED, OR MAYBE IT WAS UNPLEASANT, SOMETHING THAT THE PERSON DID NOT WANT TO DO, AND ESPECIALLY PERHAPS DID NOT WANT TO SEE THROUGH TO THE VERY END. BUT I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO WHICH I AM REFERRING AND THAT YOU AND I WILL BE CONSIDERING TOGETHER IN THIS STUDY IS NOT A BAD THING. IT'S A GOOD THING, AND IT'S SOMETHING CERTAINLY OF WHICH WE NEED TO BE AWARE. BUT FIRST OF ALL, LET'S INTRODUCE THIS IDEA FROM A TEXT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. LOOK WITH ME TO 2 JOHN VERSE 8. HERE THE APOSTLE SAID, LOOK TO YOURSELVES, THAT WE LOSE NOT THOSE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE WROUGHT BUT THAT WE RECEIVE A FULL REWARD. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT AS JOHN ADDRESSED THIS LETTER TO THE ELECT LADY AND HER CHILDREN, THAT HE WAS EMPHASIZING TO THEM THAT THEY NEEDED TO BE MINDFUL, THEY NEEDED TO BE VIGILANT. HE SAID THERE, LOOK TO YOURSELVES. THERE'S EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE WALKING IN TRUTH. YOU CAN READ ABOUT THAT EARLIER IN THIS VERY BRIEF LETTER; BUT EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN WALKING IN TRUTH AND APPARENTLY WERE CONTINUING TO DO SO, JOHN STILL CAUTIONED THEM, LOOK TO YOURSELVES. AND SO IN THIS WAY WE REALIZE THAT LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SO LONG AS ONE IS ACTUALLY LIVING HERE UPON THE EARTH, WELL, THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH THAT IS ALWAYS UNFINISHED BUSINESS. AS LONG AS WE LIVE UPON THE EARTH, THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS OURS TO LIVE, AND WE NEED TO CONTINUE DOING SO DAY AFTER DAY, EVEN YEAR AFTER YEAR, OR FOR THAT MATTER, DECADE AFTER DECADE. LET'S DIRECT OUR THOUGHTS TO PSALM 116. AND AS WE DO SO, I WANT US TO BREAK DOWN OUR STUDY OF THIS PSALM INTO FOUR BASIC AREAS. LOOK WITH ME TO POINT NUMBER ONE. WE'LL CALL THIS PREVIOUS BUSINESS. PREVIOUS BUSINESS. WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SURE OF WHO THE PSALMIST IS. WE KNOW THAT HE WAS INSPIRED OF THE SPIRIT AS HE WROTE SCRIPTURE. PERHAPS IT WAS DAVID, PERHAPS IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE INSPIRED. BUT SOMETHING WE DO KNOW IS THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME EVENTS TRANSPIRE

BEFORE THE WRITING DOWN OF THIS PSALM. LOOK WITH ME HERE TO VERSES 3 AND 4. THE SORROWS OF DEATH COMPASSED ME, AND THE PAINS OF HELL OR HADES, SHEOL, GAT HOLD UPON ME. I FOUND TROUBLE AND SORROW. THEN I CALLED UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD; O LORD, I BESEECH THEE, DELIVER MY SOUL. NOW, IT'S EVIDENT FROM THE WORDING HERE AND PARTICULARLY IN VERSE 3 THAT THE PSALMIST PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN IN A CIRCUMSTANCE WHERE HE TRULY, SINCERELY FEARED FOR HIS LIFE. MAYBE AN EXPRESSION THAT YOU AND I WOULD USE TODAY WOULD BE HE HAD BEEN ON DEATH'S DOORSTEP. HE FELT SURELY THAT HIS LIFE WAS IN IMMINENT DANGER. BUT HE SAYS, I CALLED UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD, AND HE DELIVERED MY SOUL, OR, HE DELIVERED MY LIFE. THIS IS THE PREVIOUS BUSINESS TO WHICH WE ARE REFERRING. WE'RE NOT GIVEN ANY OF THE PARTICULARS ABOUT WHAT KIND OF CIRCUMSTANCE THE PSALMIST HAD BEEN IN. WE'RE NOT SURE WHETHER IT WAS SIMPLY A PERSONAL HEALTH PROBLEM OR PERHAPS IF IT HAD BEEN A PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST HIM, MAYBE BY AN ENEMY OR A GROUP OF ENEMIES. WE DON'T KNOW. BUT WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT IN HIS MOMENT OF CRISIS, HE HAD CALLED UPON THE LORD. MOVE DOWN WITH ME TO VERSE 10 AND NOTICE IT IN THE NEXT PLACE. IN VERSE 10 HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SAY, I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I HAVE SPOKEN; I WAS GREATLY AFFLICTED. AS I HAVE STUDIED PSALM 116, I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT VERSE 10 IS REALLY CONNECTED TO VERSE 4. AND SO YOU COULD BACK UP TO VERSE 4 IN YOUR BIBLE AT HOME AND MAYBE PUT VERSE 10 BESIDE IT AND THEN MOVE BACK DOWN HERE TO VERSE 10 AND PERHAPS WRITE VERSE 4 IN YOUR MARGIN ALONGSIDE THIS PASSAGE. WE SEE HERE FROM VERSE 10 THAT THE REASON THE PSALMIST CALLED UPON GOD AS HE DID IN VERSE 4 IS BECAUSE HE SINCERELY BELIEVED HE WAS GREATLY AFFLICTED. HE BELIEVED THAT. THIS IS NOTHING PRETENTIOUS, THIS IS NOTHING THAT WAS TAKEN LIGHTLY, THIS IS NOTHING THAT WAS UNSERIOUS, IF YOU WILL, IN THE MIND OF THE PSALMIST; BUT RATHER HE REALLY WAS SINCERE AND HE BELIEVED THAT HE WAS IN IMMINENT PERIL. AND SO HE SPOKE. HE CALLED UPON THE LORD. AND OF COURSE, THANKFULLY, THE LORD DELIVERED HIM. AND SO HERE WE'RE READING ABOUT THE PREVIOUS BUSINESS, SOME THINGS GOING ON BEFORE WE GET TO THE ACTUAL WRITING OF THIS PSALM. ISN'T THAT IMPORTANT FOR US TO CONSIDER. LOOK WITH ME TO ONE MORE PASSAGE HERE ALONG THESE LINES. IN GENESIS 15 BEGINNING AT VERSE, 5 WE READ, AND HE, THAT IS, GOD, BROUGHT HIM, ABRAM, FORTH ABROAD, AND SAID, LOOK NOW TOWARD HEAVEN, AND TELL, OR COUNT, THE STARS, IF THOU BE ABLE TO NUMBER THEM. AND HE SAID UNTO HIM, SO SHALL THY SEED BE. AND HE BELIEVED IN THE LORD; AND HE COUNTED IT TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. AND HE SAID UNTO HIM, I AM THE LORD, OR I AM YAHWEH THAT BROUGHT THEE OUT OF UR OF THE CHALDEES, TO GIVE THEE THIS LAND TO INHERIT IT. THE REASON I'VE INCLUDED GENESIS 15 AT THIS JUNCTURE IS BECAUSE IF YOU WERE TO BACK UP IN PSALM 116:3-4, YOU'LL NOTICE THAT THE PSALMIST DIDN'T SIMPLY OR ONLY CALL UPON THE LORD. THE BIBLE ACTUALLY SAYS THERE HE CALLED UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD, INVOKING THE NAME OF YAHWEH, THE NAME OF GOD. NOW, WHY IS THAT? WELL, FROM PASSAGES LIKE GENESIS 15, WE'RE GIVEN SOME INSIGHT INTO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NAME OF THE LORD. FIRST OF ALL, BEFORE I COMMENT ON GENESIS 15, WE WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT THE NAME OF GOD STANDS FOR ALL THAT GOD IS. IT STANDS AS IT WERE FOR A SUMMARY, A SUMMARY OF HIS DIVINE ATTRIBUTES. WITH THAT IN MIND, WE REFLECT ON GENESIS 15 FROM WHICH WE JUST READ, AND TWO VERY NOTABLE QUALITIES OF YAHWEH ARE BROUGHT OUT IN THAT PASSAGE. NUMBER ONE, YAHWEH, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, IS A GOD OF LIMITLESS POWER. LIMITLESS POWER. REMEMBER, HE SHOWED ABRAHAM THE STARS OF THE SKY AND EVEN TOLD ABRAHAM TO TELL THEM, OR COUNT THEM, IF YOU WILL. AND OF COURSE THAT WOULD HAVE IMPRESSED UPON ABRAM HIS OWN LIMITATIONS. AND YET GOD'S POWER THAT CREATED ALL OF THOSE STARS, GOD'S POWER IS LIMITLESS. AND THEN GOD SPOKE

TO THIS AGED MAN. AT THIS POINT, ABRAHAM IS ALREADY WELL STRICKEN IN YEARS. HE'S AN AGED MAN. AND YET GOD PROMISES HIM THAT HIS DESCENDANTS ARE GOING TO BE AS THE STARS OF THE SKY. CAN JUST ANYONE DO THAT WITH AN AGED MAN AND HIS AGED WIFE? ABSOLUTELY NOT. BUT YAHWEH, THE GOD OF LIMITLESS POWER, THE SAME GOD WHO PUT EACH ONE OF THOSE STARS IN THE SKY, HE CAN DO THAT. NOW, IN THE SECOND PLACE, REFLECTING STILL ON GENESIS 15, THERE'S ANOTHER ATTRIBUTE OR ANOTHER CHARACTERISTIC OF GOD THAT JUMPS OUT AT US, AND THAT IS THAT GOD IS A COVENANT-KEEPING GOD. THIS PARTICULARLY ARISES IN VERSE 7, WHEN BASICALLY GOD TELLS ABRAHAM THAT I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THIS LAND TO INHERIT. I'M GOING TO GIVE THIS LAND, AS WE KNOW FROM BIBLICAL HISTORY, TO YOUR DESCENDANTS. WELL, GOD KEEPS HIS WORD. GOD IS A COVENANT-KEEPING GOD. NOW, I SUBMIT TO YOU THAT AS WE'RE STUDYING PSALM 116 AND WE'RE CONSIDERING THIS PREVIOUS BUSINESS THAT HAD GONE ON BEFORE THE WRITING DOWN OF THIS PSALM, I SUBMIT TO YOU THAT THE PSALMIST HAD CALLED UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD BECAUSE HE IS A GOD, THE GOD OF LIMITLESS POWER AND BECAUSE HE IS THE COVENANT-KEEPING GOD. THAT AND SO MUCH MORE ARE ALL ENTAILED IN THAT PROPER NAME YAHWEH, OR JEHOVAH, PERHAPS. IT INDICATES THE NATURE OF OUR GREAT GOD. NOW, POINT NUMBER TWO. LET'S LEAVE THAT PREVIOUS BUSINESS BEHIND, AND LET'S MOVE NOW TO INWARD BUSINESS. AS WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY AND REFLECTION ON PSALM 116, THERE IS NOW SOME INWARD BUSINESS THAT THE PSALMIST HAD TO TAKE UP, SOME THINGS THAT HE HAD TO GRAPPLE WITH INWARDLY. AND HE EITHER DID THIS PRIOR TO WRITING DOWN THE PSALM, OR PERHAPS MAYBE AS HE WROTE THE PSALM ITSELF. NOW, THIS INWARD BUSINESS I'M GOING TO DETAIL ALONG THREE LINES. NUMBER ONE, HE HAD TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT GOD. FOLLOWING HIS CRISIS, FOLLOWING THE GREAT DELIVERANCE THAT GOD HAD GIVEN TO THE PSALMIST, HE NOW HAD TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT THIS GREAT GOD WHOM HE SERVED. LOOK WITH ME TO THIS PASSAGE. VERSE 5, HE SAYS, HE CONCLUDES, GRACIOUS IS THE LORD, AND RIGHTEOUS; YEA, OUR GOD IS MERCIFUL. ISN'T IT WONDERFUL THAT THE PSALMIST IS ABLE TO COME TO THAT RIGHTFUL CONCLUSION? EVERYTHING THAT THE PSALMIST HAD BEEN THROUGH, AND WE DON'T KNOW THE PARTICULARS. WE KNOW IT WAS SEVERE. WE KNOW THAT HE FELT AS IF HE HAD BEEN ON DEATH'S DOORSTEP. AND YET HAVING GONE THROUGH ALL OF THAT, NOW INWARDLY AS HE PROCESSES THIS AND AS HE PUTS THESE THOUGHTS TO PEN AND INK IN THE PSALM, HE'S ABLE TO CONCLUDE ACCURATELY ABOUT GOD: NAMELY, THAT GOD IS GRACIOUS, GOD IS RIGHTEOUS, GOD IS MERCIFUL. AS YOU LOOK AT THAT THERE IN VERSE 5, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO NOTICE. NOTICE THAT THE FIRST AND THE LAST OF THOSE DESCRIPTIONS, GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, NOTICE THAT THOSE ARE QUALITIES OF GOD THAT SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY APPEALING TO MAN. AFTER ALL, YOU AND I, WE ARE FRAIL HUMAN BEINGS. WE ARE WEAK, WE ARE PRONE TO SIN SO OFTEN DUE TO THE WEAKNESS OF OUR FLESH, MATTHEW 26:41. AND YET GOD IS GRACIOUS, GOD IS MERCIFUL. HOW WONDERFUL THOSE QUALITIES OF GOD ARE FOR US TO CONSIDER. AND YET NOW NOTICE ALSO RIGHT BETWEEN THOSE TWO QUALITIES, GOD IS SAID TO BE RIGHTEOUS. NOW, THAT'S A DIFFERENT MATTER. WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD, WE'RE SPEAKING OF THE FACT THAT GOD IS JUST. AND FROM MAN'S PERSPECTIVE, BEING WEAK AND SINFUL AS WE ARE, THE JUSTICE OF GOD, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IS A MUCH MORE FEARFUL THING TO US THAN HIS GRACE AND HIS MERCY. VIRTUALLY ALL OF US, I WOULD ASSUME, WOULD MUCH RATHER HEAR ABOUT THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE MERCY OF GOD THAN WE WOULD TO HEAR ABOUT THE JUSTICE, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. AND YET THE WAY THE PSALMIST INCLUDES THAT QUALITY, ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL THAT WE COULD SAY THE SWORD OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS FOUND IN THE SCABBARD OF HIS GRACE AND MERCY, SANDWICHED, AS IT WERE, RIGHT THERE BETWEEN THOSE OTHER TWO DESCRIPTIONS. AND SO IT'S WONDERFUL THAT

REGARDING THIS INWARD BUSINESS, THE PSALMIST HAD TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT GOD. BUT NOW ALONG ANOTHER LINE OF REASONING, HE ALSO HAD TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT HIMSELF. ANYTIME WE GO THROUGH CRISES OR CALAMITIES IN OUR LIVES, THEY SHOULD PROMPT US TO STOP OR PAUSE AND TO TAKE SELF INVENTORY. IN THIS WAY, HOPEFULLY WE CAN COME OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THESE CRISES, WE CAN COME OUT A BETTER PERSON, HAVING DRAWN CLOSER TO GOD. BUT THAT WILL REQUIRE OUR THINKING PROPERLY ABOUT OURSELVES. LOOK AT THE NEXT VERSE. PSALM 116:6, HE SAID, THE LORD PRESERVETH THE SIMPLE. I WAS BROUGHT LOW, AND HE HELPED ME. OFTEN TIMES AS HUMAN BEINGS, THE IDEA OF BEING BROUGHT LOW IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE RELISH. IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT WE SEEK OUT. INSTEAD, OFTENTIMES WE ARE BOTHERED BY THAT. WE DO NOT FIND THAT APPEALING. AND YET ISN'T IT WONDERFUL TO BE BROUGHT LOW IF IN THAT ABASED CONDITION YOU DRAW CLOSER TO GOD AND GOD PRESERVES YOU? DOESN'T THAT TURN OUT TO BE A WONDERFUL BLESSING? OVER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT JESUS WOULD EVEN TEACH IN LUKE CHAPTER 18 THAT EVERYONE WHO EXALTS HIMSELF SHALL BE ABASED, BUT EVERYONE WHO ABASES HIMSELF SHALL BE EXALTED. AND SO THERE IS SOMETHING HERE ABOUT THINKING PROPERLY REGARDING OURSELVES. NAMELY, NONE OF US ARE SELF-SUFFICIENT. NONE OF US ARE SO STRONG, SO SMART, SO WHATEVER THAT WE DON'T NEED GOD. WE WOULD DO WELL TO RECOGNIZE THAT WELL BEFORE WE ARE EVER KNOCKED DOWN, WELL BEFORE WE ARE EVER BROUGHT LOW IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE; HOWEVER, SOMETIMES WE DON'T. AND SOMETIMES IT TAKES THAT CALAMITY, IT TAKES THAT REVERSAL TO KNOCK US DOWN SO THAT WE HAVE TO LOOK UP. AND WHEN WE LOOK UP, WE REALIZE AFRESH THE GREATNESS OF GOD AND THE WEAKNESS OF OURSELVES. SO SOME OF THIS INWARD BUSINESS THAT THE PSALMIST NEEDED TO TAKE UP INVOLVED THINKING PROPERLY ABOUT HIMSELF. NOW, NOT ONLY IN THAT FIRST MANNER, BUT ALSO LOOK NOW TO THE NEXT VERSE. IN THE NEXT VERSE, VERSE 7, HE COACHES HIMSELF. HE SAYS, RETURN UNTO THY REST, O MY SOUL; FOR THE LORD HATH DEALT BOUNTIFULLY WITH THEE. CONTINUING THE IDEA OF THINKING PROPERLY ABOUT OURSELVES, SOMETIMES WHEN WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A CRISIS WE HAVE TO REMIND OURSELVES, LOOK, THAT IS PASSED. I DON'T NEED TO LIVE IN THE PAST ANY LONGER. THE LORD DELIVERED ME, THE LORD BLESSED ME, OR AS WE READ THERE IN VERSE 7, THE LORD DEALT BOUNTIFULLY WITH ME. NOW I NEED TO EMBRACE THAT, I NEED TO ACCEPT THAT, AND I NEED TO MOVE ON AND NOT LIVE ANY LONGER IN THE PAST. ONE MORE THOUGHT HERE REGARDING THIS INWARD BUSINESS. IN THE THIRD PLACE, THE PSALMIST NEEDED TO THINK PROPERLY ABOUT HIS FELLOW MAN. MOVE DOWN HERE AND NOTICE WITH ME VERSE 11. HE SAYS, I SAID IN MY HASTE, ALL MEN ARE LIARS. ISN'T THAT INTERESTING? PERHAPS THIS GIVES US A LITTLE INSIGHT AS TO THE EXACT NATURE OF THE PREVIOUS BUSINESS, THE PREDICAMENT THAT THE PSALMIST HAD FOUND HIMSELF IN EARLIER. BUT AT ANY RATE, HE SAYS, I SAID IN MY HASTE, ALL MEN ARE LIARS. WELL, THAT'S A STATEMENT THAT ON ONE HAND IS UNTRUE; AND HE SEEMS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WHEN HE SAYS I WAS SPEAKING IN MY HASTE, I SPOKE RASHLY. AND SO THE PSALMIST SEEMS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE INACCURACY OF HIS STATEMENT. BUT THEN ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S A STATEMENT THAT IS TRUE IN ANOTHER SENSE. NOW, FOLLOW WITH ME. REMEMBER WHEN PAUL WOULD SAY IN ROMANS 3:4, LET GOD BE TRUE, BUT EVERY MAN A LIAR? IT IS TRUE THAT IN COMPARISON TO GOD, NO ONE, NOT A ONE OF US CAN BE COUNTED UPON AS GOD CAN BE COUNTED UPON. AND SO WHAT WE LEARN HERE IN THINKING PROPERLY ABOUT OUR FELLOW MAN IS THAT WE NEED A BALANCED VIEW OF OTHERS. IS EVERYBODY BAD? IS EVERYBODY OUT TO GET US? WILL EVERYBODY LET US DOWN? NO, NOT NECESSARILY. DON'T BE CYNICAL. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, DON'T TURN TO ANY HUMAN BEING EXPECTING TO FIND THE RELIABILITY, THE CONFIDENCE, THE STRENGTH THAT YOU CAN ONLY GET FROM GOD HIMSELF. SO KEEP OUR THOUGHTS IN BALANCE. NUMBER THREE, AND VERY

QUICKLY, WHAT ABOUT THIS OUTWARD BUSINESS? OUTWARD BUSINESS. NOT ONLY DID THE PSALMIST NEED TO THINK PROPERLY INWARDLY; BUT NOW AFTER THIS CALAMITY AND THIS DELIVERANCE, GOING FORWARD HE'S GOT TO LIVE A CERTAIN WAY OUTWARDLY. LOOK AT THESE VERSES WITH ME. VERSES 16 AND 17, HE SAYS, O LORD, TRULY I AM THY SERVANT; I AM THY SERVANT, AND THE SON OF THY HANDMAID; THOU HAST LOOSED MY BONDS. SO WHAT WILL YOU DO, PSALMIST? I WILL OFFER TO THEE THE SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING, AND WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD. FOR THE SAKE OF TIME, THAT'S GOING TO BE THE ONLY PASSAGE THAT WE USE FOR THIS THIRD POINT. BUT LET ME POINT OUT THAT BASICALLY EVEN THOUGH HE HAD BEEN DELIVERED FROM SOME GREAT CALAMITY OR CRISIS, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE'S STILL IN SERVICE TO THE LORD. I THINK ABOUT ROMANS CHAPTER 6 WHERE PAUL DISCUSSES OUR HAVING BEEN MADE FREE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN, AND YET NOW WE'RE STILL THE SERVANTS OF ALMIGHTY GOD. AND THAT'S A WONDERFUL THING. AND THUS WITH THE PSALMIST WE ARE NOW ABLE TO LIVE THE REMAINDER OF OUR DAYS GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD, CALLING UPON HIS NAME. WHAT A WONDERFUL LIFE TO LIVE DAY BY DAY. AND THAT BRINGS US TO OUR FOURTH AND OUR FINAL POINT. AND THAT IS, AS OUR TITLE HAS BEEN, UNFINISHED BUSINESS. BECAUSE THE PSALMIST NOW HAD OUTWARD BUSINESS TO LIVE AND CONDUCT IN HIS DAILY LIFE, WE'RE REALIZING THAT THIS BUSINESS IS ALWAYS UNFINISHED. LOOK AT VERSE 15, PROBABLY THE MOST POPULAR VERSE IN THIS PSALM. PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS. FRIENDS AND VIEWERS, I MUST FREELY CONFESS TO YOU THAT I FEAR THAT MANY TIMES THIS VERSE IS MISUSED. HOW OFTEN HAVE WE BEEN TO FUNERALS WHEN THAT VERSE HAS BEEN QUOTED? AND YET IN ITS CONTEXT HERE, I DON'T KNOW THAT THIS VERSE IS A VERSE FOR FUNERALS. ISN'T IT INTERESTING THAT WE FIND VERSE 15 NOT IN A PSALM ABOUT DEATH? WE FIND VERSE 15 IN A PSALM ABOUT DELIVERANCE. THE PSALMIST HAD ESCAPED. THE PSALMIST HAD BEEN DELIVERED. NOTICE THIS IS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE NEXT PASSAGE. MOVE BACK UP TO VERSE 9 WITH ME HERE AS WELL. HE SAYS, I WILL WALK BEFORE THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING. WHY? BECAUSE HE HAD NOT DIED. WHY? BECAUSE PRECIOUS, OR COSTLY IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS. THAT'S NO SMALL MATTER WITH GOD. AND SO IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, GOD HAD DELIVERED HIS SERVANT. HE'S STILL IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING. NOW LET'S GO TO THE FIRST TWO VERSES OF THIS PSALM AND NOTICE THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS. HE OPENS UP THIS ENTIRE PSALM BY SAYING, I LOVE THE LORD, BECAUSE HE HATH HEARD MY VOICE AND MY SUPPLICATIONS. NOTICE THIS, BECAUSE HE HATH INCLINED HIS EAR UNTO ME, THEREFORE WILL I CALL UPON HIM AS LONG AS I LIVE. FRIENDS, BY DEFINITION, THAT IS UNFINISHED BUSINESS. AND THE LESSON FOR YOU AND ME IS SIMPLY THIS: EACH DAY THAT WE ARE GIVEN, WE ARE TO CALL UPON THE LORD AND TO SEEK HIM IN FAITHFUL SERVICE. THANK YOU.

JAMES >> LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK HAS JUST BROUGHT YOU PREACHING THE GOSPEL WITH BROTHER CLIFF GOODWIN. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION RELATIVE TO ANYTHING THAT'S BEEN TAUGHT, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE A CD OR A TAPE OF THE MESSAGE, JUST CALL THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER ON YOUR SCREEN. BE HAPPY TO SEND IT TO YOU. AND BY THE WAY, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STUDY THE BIBLE PRIVATELY IN YOUR OWN HOME, WE OFFER FREE A SET OF FIVE STUDIES, AND WE'D BE HAPPY TO SEND THESE TO YOU AT NO COST AT ALL, AND IT WOULD BE OF GREAT ADVANTAGE. STUDY YOUR BIBLE, LEARN THE TRUTH, AND OBEY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. IT WILL HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY. WE APPRECIATE CLIFF, THE EXCELLENT JOB THAT HE DID IN THE PRESENTATION OF TRUTH. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. MAY GOD BLESS.

CLIFF >> THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH ME TODAY AS WE DISCUSSED UNFINISHED BUSINESS. FRIEND, IF YOU HAVEN'T YET OBEYED THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, THAT IS CERTAINLY UNFINISHED BUSINESS. BELIEVE ON THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS, MARK 16:16; REPENT, TURNING AWAY FROM SINS, ACTS 2:38; CONFESS JESUS AS LORD, AS DEITY COME IN THE FLESH, ROMANS 10:9-10; AND PUT HIM ON IN BAPTISM FOR THE WASHING AWAY OF YOUR SINS, ACTS 22:16. VISIT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND TAKE CARE OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

>> MORE ABOUT JESUS LET ME LEARN, MORE OF HIS HOLY WILL DISCERN. SPIRIT OF GOD MY TEACHER BE, SHOWING THE THINGS OF CHRIST TO ME. MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE, MORE ABOUT JESUS. MORE OF HIS SAVING FULLNESS SEE, MORE OF HIS LOVE WHO DIED FOR ME.