

>> GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK OFFERS A FREE NON-DENOMINATIONAL BIBLE COURSE. IT'S BASED STRICTLY ON GOD'S WORD AND NOT THE CREEDS OR TRADITIONS OF MEN. WHY NOT CONTACT US FOR LESSON NUMBER ONE? YOU MAY WANT TO ENROLL BY E-MAIL. THE ADDRESS IS INFO@GBNTV.ORG. TO ENROLL BY PHONE, CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 888-805-3390.

>> HELLO, AND WELCOME AGAIN TO COUNTERPOINT. I'M MIKE HIXSON, AND WITH ME AS ALWAYS, B.J. CLARKE. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU TODAY. WE'RE GOING TO BE TALKING TODAY ABOUT THE THEME, WHY IS JESUS SO SPECIAL? HOPE YOU'LL STAY WITH US.

>> B.J., GREAT TO BE WITH YOU TODAY.

>> ALWAYS GOOD TO BE WITH YOU, SIR.

>> AS WE THINK ABOUT THE THEME TODAY, JESUS, WHAT MAKES HIM SO SPECIAL? BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF FOLKS IN THE WORLD TODAY, THEY'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT JESUS. AND I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT I'D LIVE IN A DAY AND TIME WHEN PEOPLE BY AND LARGE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY EQUATE JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD. THERE ARE MANY FOLKS THAT WOULD SAY HE WAS A GOOD MAN. SOME WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT HE WAS ONE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INJUSTICES OF HIS DAY, COMPASSIONATE, LOVING, KIND, ET CETERA. BUT THE SON OF GOD. SO WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS, CAN YOU THINK OF A PASSAGE THAT WOULD REALLY UNDERSCORE HIS UNIQUENESS AND COUNTER THIS IDEA THAT HE WAS JUST A GOOD MAN?

>> YEAH. THERE ARE SEVERAL THAT COME TO MIND, MIKE. ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THAT I WAS THINKING OF AS YOU WERE SAYING WHAT YOU WERE SAYING THERE IS ABOUT HOW JESUS IS EVEN INTERESTED IN WHO PEOPLE THINK HE IS. YOU REMEMBER IN MATTHEW 16, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT JESUS CAME INTO THE COAST OF CAESAREA PHILIPPI, AND HE ASKED HIS DISCIPLES THERE IN VERSE 13, WHOM DO MEN SAY THAT I, THE SON OF MAN, AM? AND IT'S INTERESTING THE RESPONSES THAT CAME BACK. WELL, SOME SAY YOU'RE JOHN THE BAPTIST. WELL, HE HAD DIED TWO CHAPTERS EARLIER. AND SOME SAY YOU'RE ELIJAH OR JEREMIAH OR ONE OF THE PROPHETS. AND JESUS SAYS, BUT WHOM SAY YE THAT I AM? AND THAT'S WHEN SIMON PETER GOT SPECIFIC: THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. NOW, YOU CAN'T GET MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT. HE DOESN'T SAY YOU'RE A SON. HE SAYS YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. AND JESUS COMMENDED HIM FOR RECOGNIZING THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN REVEALED TO HIM BY FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT BY THE FATHER IN HEAVEN. AND SO WHEN YOU ALSO GO TO THE BOOK OF JOHN, IT'S INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THERE IN THE VERY FIRST CHAPTER, SOME PEOPLE COME TO JOHN THE BAPTIZER, AND THEY DEMAND TO KNOW WHO ARE YOU? TELL US WHO YOU ARE. AND ONE OF THE THINGS THEY ASK HIM IN JOHN 1:20 WHEN HE SAID I'M NOT THE CHRIST, THEY SAID, WELL, THEN WHAT THEN? ARE YOU ELIJAH? HE SAID I'M NOT. ARE YOU THAT PROPHET? NOW, THAT'S INTERESTING, BECAUSE THERE ARE LOTS OF PROPHETS TALKED ABOUT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, MIKE. BUT THERE WAS A DEUTERONOMY 18 PROPHET THAT WOULD BE THE ONE LIKE UNTO MOSES WHO WOULD BE A LAW GIVER AND A DELIVERER.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> AND THEY WANT TO KNOW, JOHN THE BAPTIZER, ARE YOU THAT PROPHET? AND HE SAID NO. AND THEN THEY SAID, WELL, THEN WHO ARE YOU, THAT WE MAY GIVE AN ANSWER TO THEM THAT SENT US? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF? AND HE

SAID, I'M THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD. AND THEN IT'S JUST A FEW VERSES LATER IN VERSE 29 THAT JOHN SAYS AS HE SEES JESUS COMING, BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. THAT'S WHO JESUS IS. THAT'S WHY HE'S SO SPECIAL, BECAUSE HE'S THE ONLY ONE THAT COULD DO WHAT JOHN SAID HE CAME TO DO.

>> WELL, YOU KNOW, JOHN THE BAPTIST, IN VERSE 34, YOU REMEMBER FOLLOWING THE BAPTISM OF JESUS, JOHN SAID, I HAVE SEEN AND TESTIFIED THAT THIS IS THE SON OF GOD. AND YOU KNOW, B.J., AS WE THINK ABOUT THE DEITY OF CHRIST, BACK IN CHAPTER 1, BEGINNING IN VERSE 1, JOHN REALLY LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE DEITY OF CHRIST. AND I KNOW THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE TODAY, THEY ARE MISINFORMED ABOUT THE NATURE OF CHRIST. SOME HAVE THIS IDEA HE IS A CREATED BEING. JOHN, HOWEVER, DOES NOT TEACH THAT WHATSOEVER.

>> NO. IN FACT, HE POINT-BLANK SAYS, IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, THE WORD WAS GOD. AND THEN IT SAYS, THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. AND THEN IN VERSE NUMBER 3, ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM, AND WITHOUT HIM THERE WASN'T ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS MADE. IF ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM, THEN OBVIOUSLY HE'S NOT A CREATED BEING. HE'S THE BEING WHO CREATED ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO JOHN 1:3. AND WE KNOW THAT'S JESUS, THE ONE WHO WOULD BECOME KNOWN AS JESUS, BECAUSE IT SAYS IN VERSE 14, THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US. AND THAT'S JESUS CHRIST.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. GOING ALL THE WAY BACK, YOU MENTIONED THE PROPHETS. AND MOSES OF COURSE IN DEUTERONOMY 18 IDENTIFIED THAT COMING PROPHET, AND THAT WOULD BE JESUS THE MESSIAH, THE PROMISED SEED OF GENESIS 3:15. BUT MICAH IN THE LONG AGO PINPOINTED THE BIRTHPLACE OF JESUS, BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA. BUT IN THAT CONTEXT IN CHAPTER 5, HE TALKED ABOUT HIM WHOSE GOINGS FORTH IS FROM OF OLD, EVEN FROM EVERLASTING. LITERALLY, FROM THE DAYS OF ETERNITY. OKAY, WHO'S HE TALKING ABOUT? HE'S TALKING ABOUT JESUS, THE SECOND MEMBER OF THE GODHEAD. AND SO AS YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO, IN JOHN 1:1-3, HE IS ESTABLISHED BY JOHN AS GOD. HE WAS THE CREATOR, AND THEN THE WORD BECAME FLESH. AND THEN I THINK ABOUT PAUL IN COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 2 SAID, SPEAKING OF CHRIST, IN HIM DWELLS ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY.

>> RIGHT. EXACTLY. THAT'S THE AMAZING THING ABOUT IT. THAT'S WHY WE CALL IT INCARNATION. IT HAS TO DO WITH HIM BECOMING FLESH. NOW, ONE OF THE VIEWS THAT ORIGINATED IN THE FIRST CENTURY THAT WAS A FALSE DOCTRINE IS SOMETHING CALLED GNOSTICISM. IT SAID HE DIDN'T REALLY COME IN THE FLESH. HE ONLY APPEARED TO BE IN A FLESHLY BODY. AND JOHN SAYS, AND THIS IS SHOCKING TO SOME OF OUR VIEWERS, I'M SURE. THEY THINK ANTICHRIST IS SOME SINGULAR FIGURE WHO'S GOING TO APPEAR NEAR THE END OF TIME, AND HE IS GOING TO DO ALL OF THESE THINGS, ALLEGEDLY. THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR IN JOHN'S EPISTLES THAT ANTICHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO DENIES THAT JESUS CHRIST CAME IN THE FLESH. AND INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THERE IN 1 JOHN CHAPTER 2:18 HE SAYS, NOW YOU'VE HEARD THAT ANTICHRIST, SINGULAR SHALL COME. HE SAID, I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW THERE ARE MANY ANTICHRISTS. AND HOW DO YOU KNOW WHICH ONE IS AN ANTICHRIST? HE SAYS IN VERSE 22, WHO IS A LIE BUT HE THAT DENIETH THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST? HE IS ANTICHRIST THAT DENIES THE FATHER AND THE SON. AND THEN IN CHAPTER 4 AND VERSE NUMBER 3, EVERY SPIRIT THAT

CONFESSES NOT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS NOT OF GOD; AND THIS IS THAT SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST, WHEREOF YOU'VE HEARD IT SHOULD COME, HE SAYS, EVEN NOW ALREADY IT'S IN THE WORLD. WE'RE NOT WAITING FOR ANTICHRIST TO COME. THERE WERE MANY ANTICHRISTS IN THE FIRST CENTURY. WHAT MADE THEM ANTICHRISTS? THEY SAID JESUS DIDN'T COME IN THE FLESH.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. AND YOU KNOW, B.J., I APPRECIATE YOU SAYING THAT, BECAUSE IN ORDER TO BUTTRESS THAT ARGUMENT THAT JESUS DID IN FACT TABERNACLE IN HUMAN FLESH, YOU REMEMBER JOHN SAID IN 1 JOHN 1, THAT WHICH WAS FROM THE BEGINNING. WELL, WHO IS HE TALKING ABOUT? HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE CHRIST.

>> RIGHT.

>> WHICH WE HAVE HEARD, WHICH WE HAVE SEEN WITH OUR EYES, WHICH WE HAVE LOOKED UPON, AND OUR HANDS HAVE HANDLED CONCERNING THE WORD OF LIFE. HE SAID THE LIFE WAS MANIFESTED, WE'VE SEEN AND BEAR WITNESS AND DECLARE TO YOU THAT ETERNAL LIFE WHICH WAS WITH THE FATHER AND WAS MANIFESTED TO US; THAT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD, WE DECLARE TO YOU, THAT YOU ALSO MAY HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US. AND TRULY OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE FATHER AND WITH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST. NOW, HE'S TALKING ABOUT, LOOK, JESUS DID IN FACT COME IN HUMAN FLESH. WE'VE SEEN HIM, WE'VE HEARD HIM, WE'VE TOUCHED HIM. HE WAS HERE IN REALITY.

>> ABSOLUTELY. YOU KNOW, THERE'S A REAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THAT. NO ONE ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT IN A HUMAN BODY WILL EVER BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THE JUDGE, JESUS. JOHN 5:22 SAYS ALL JUDGMENT'S BEEN COMMITTED TO THE SON, THE FATHER HAS COMMITTED JUDGMENT TO THE SON. IT'S THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, ANOTHER PASSAGE SAYS. NO HUMAN BEING WILL EVER BE ABLE TO LOOK AT OUR JUDGE AND SAY, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN A HUMAN BODY AND TO FACE HUMAN TEMPTATIONS. HE CAN SAY, OH, YES, I DO. I LIVED IN A HUMAN BODY, GOD IN THE FLESH. AND SO NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO SAY HE CAN'T IDENTIFY WITH THE HUMAN CONDITION.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. THE HEBREW WRITER, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THE HEBREW WRITER POINTS OUT IS THAT JESUS TOOK UPON HIMSELF THE SEED OF ABRAHAM. HE BECAME FLESH.

>> RIGHT.

>> AND IN THAT SENSE, HE BECAME A MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST IN THINGS PERTAINING TO GOD. CAN JESUS IDENTIFY WITH US? WELL, THE HEBREW WRITER SAID IN HEBREWS CHAPTER 4, WE HAVE NOT A HIGH PRIEST WHO CANNOT BE TOUCHED WITH THE FEELINGS OF OUR INFIRMITIES, BUT ONE WHO HAS BEEN TEMPTED IN ALL POINTS LIKE AS WE, YET WITHOUT SIN. SO AS YOU SAID, HE'S BEEN HERE.

>> AND HE DIDN'T TAKE ON THE NATURE OF ANGELS, THAT SAME PASSAGE YOU WERE MENTIONING THERE IN HEBREWS CHAPTER 2. AND THE BOOK OF HEBREWS IS THE BETTER BOOK. IT SHOWS THE BETTER COVENANT, WE HAVE A BETTER MEDIATOR, JESUS CHRIST. AND HE'S BETTER THAN THE ANGELS. THAT'S EMPHASIZED THERE IN HEBREWS CHAPTER 1. AND SO HE IS EXACTLY ALL THAT HE NEEDED TO BE TO BE OUR ATONING SACRIFICE. HE MAINTAINED HIS DIVINITY; THUS HE WAS GOD. BUT 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 IS ONE OF THE BEST MICROCOSMS OF REALLY THE GOSPEL STORY

THAT I CAN THINK OF ANYWHERE IN THE BIBLE. AND I JUST WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT AND CONSIDER ITS WORDS, BECAUSE 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 REALLY CAPSULIZES EVERYTHING THAT WE'VE BEEN SAYING HERE IN THESE FEW MINUTES. THERE HE TALKS ABOUT THE CONTROVERSY, WITHOUT CONTROVERSY GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS. AND THEN HERE IT IS. GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH, JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT, SEEN OF ANGELS, PREACHED UNTO THE GENTILES, BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD, RECEIVED UP INTO GLORY. THERE'S A GOSPEL SERMON JUST WAITING TO BE PREACHED RIGHT THERE. THE OUTLINE IS RIGHT THERE IN THE TEXT. THIS IS WHO JESUS IS.

>> THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT. YOU KNOW, B.J., I WANT TO GO BACK MAYBE FOR A MINUTE OR TWO TO JOHN CHAPTER 6, BECAUSE IN THAT CONTEXT YOU REMEMBER JESUS HAS IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS THAT LIVING BREAD THAT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN. AND JOHN TELLS US IN VERSE 60, MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES, WHEN THEY HEARD THIS, THEIR RESPONSE WAS, THIS IS A HARD OR DIFFICULT SAYING, WHO CAN UNDERSTAND IT? AND THEN OF COURSE JOHN TELLS US, FROM THAT TIME MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WENT BACK, WALKED NO MORE WITH HIM. THEN JESUS TURNS TO THE TWELVE, AND IN A VERY POINTED WAY ASKED THEM, WILL YOU ALSO GO AWAY? PETER SPEAKS UP. AND YOU WERE REFERRING TO PETER A MOMENT AGO WHEN HE ACKNOWLEDGED JESUS AS THE CHRIST. PETER SAID, LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. AND THEN IN VERSE 69 HE SAID, WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE AND KNOW THAT YOU'RE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. PETER HERE AFFIRMING THE FACT THAT THEY HAD COME TO THE ROCK-SOLID CONCLUSION THAT JESUS WAS EXACTLY WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE. AND SO I THINK ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE WATCHING TODAY, AND THEY SAY WELL, YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF LIVING IN THE FIRST CENTURY. I DIDN'T GET TO HEAR JESUS PREACH AND TEACH. I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HIM PERFORM ALL THE MIRACLES. BUT B.J., CAN'T WE JUST AS THEY DID SIFT THROUGH THE EVIDENCE AND COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION?

>> ABSOLUTELY. NICODEMUS COMES TO MIND THERE IN JOHN CHAPTER 3 WHEN HE SAYS, RABBI, WE KNOW THOU ART A TEACHER COME FROM GOD. HOW DID NICODEMUS KNOW THAT? HOW DID THEY KNOW THAT? HE SAYS, FOR NO MAN CAN DO THE MIRACLES THAT THOU DOEST EXCEPT GOD BE WITH HIM. AND IT'S INTERESTING. IN JOHN CHAPTER 1, A MINOR MIRACLE IT WOULD SEEM COMPARED TO SOME OF THE OTHER STUPENDOUS THINGS THAT JESUS DID, TAKES PLACE, AND THERE'S SUCH AN AMAZING EMPHASIS HERE. NATHANAEL IS COMING TO JESUS IN VERSE 47 OF JOHN 1. NOW, PHILIP HAD TRIED TO GET NATHANAEL TO COME AND SEE THAT JESUS WAS REALLY WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE. AND JESUS SEES NATHANAEL COMING. HE SAYS, BEHOLD AN ISRAELITE INDEED, IN WHOM IS NO GUILF. NOW, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME JESUS HAS EVER MET NATHANAEL. NATHANAEL IS LIKE, HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT THERE'S NO GUILF IN ME WHEN YOU'VE NEVER MET ME? AND HE SAYS, HOW DO YOU KNOW ME, VERSE 48. JESUS SAID, BEFORE PHILIP CALLED YOU, WHEN YOU WERE UNDER THE FIG TREE, I SAW YOU. NOW, HE DIDN'T TWEET THIS OUT. HE DIDN'T PUT IT ON HIS FACEBOOK STATUS THAT I'M SITTING UNDER A FIG TREE RIGHT NOW. SO HOW DID JESUS KNOW THAT HE'D BEEN SITTING UNDER A FIG TREE? HE HADN'T REVEALED THAT TO ANYONE, BUT JESUS SOMEHOW KNEW IT. NATHANAEL'S SO IMPRESSED BY THIS, HE SAYS, RABBI, THOU ART THE SON OF GOD. THOU ART THE KING OF ISRAEL. AND JESUS SAYS, BECAUSE I SAID TO THEE, I SAW YOU UNDER THE FIG TREE, YOU BELIEVE? YOU'LL SEE GREATER THINGS THAN THESE. BUT THAT MIRACLE ALONE WAS ENOUGH TO CONVINCENATHANAEL YOU MUST BE FROM GOD. BUT THEN YOU GO THROUGH THE STORY OF THE BOOK OF JOHN, AND YOU SEE THE VERY PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF JOHN WAS STATED, MANY OTHER SIGNS TRULY DID JESUS IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS DISCIPLES WHICH ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THIS

BOOK; BUT THESE ARE WRITTEN THAT YOU MIGHT BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. THERE IT IS AGAIN, THE SPECIFICITY FROM HIS MIRACULOUS POWER HE SHOWED WHO HE WAS.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. YOU KNOW, JESUS SAID IN JOHN CHAPTER 5, THE VERY WORKS THAT I DO BEAR WITNESS OF ME, THAT THE FATHER HAS SENT ME. AND YOU ALLUDED TO THE BOOK OF JOHN. THERE ARE SEVEN MIRACLES IN THE BOOK OF JOHN. EVERY MIRACLE VALIDATES HIS AUTHORITY OVER CERTAIN REALMS, WHETHER IT BE OVER MATTER, OVER CREATION, OVER DEATH, ET CETERA. JESUS WAS DEMONSTRATED TO BE THE DIVINE SON OF GOD, AS YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO.

>> AND YOU KNOW, WE MIGHT ASK THE QUESTION THEN, IF IT WAS SO OBVIOUS THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD, WHY DO WE READ STATEMENTS LIKE WE READ IN JOHN 7:12, THERE WAS MUCH MURMURING AMONG THE PEOPLE. SOME SAID HE'S A GOOD MAN; OTHERS SAID NO, BUT HE'S DECEIVING THE PEOPLE. AND THEN YOU STAY IN THIS CHAPTER, AND YOU NOTICE IN VERSE 43 THERE'S A DIVISION AMONG THE PEOPLE BECAUSE OF HIM. VERSE 41, OTHERS SAID, THIS IS THE CHRIST; SOME SAID, CHRIST IS COMING OUT OF GALILEE? HAS NOT THE SCRIPTURE SAID CHRIST COMES OF THE SEED OF DAVID OUT OF THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM WHERE DAVID WAS? AND SO THERE'S ALL OF THIS CONSTANT BACK AND FORTH. BUT JESUS PROVIDED AMPLE EVIDENCE. WHAT THIS TELLS US IS THAT NOT EVERYONE IS WILLING TO SEE THAT, EVEN THOUGH IT'S VERY CLEAR AND EVIDENT.

>> THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT. B.J., I WANT TO MAYBE GO BACK TO JOHN CHAPTER 5 FOR A MINUTE, BECAUSE THERE YOU TALKED ABOUT HOW THE FATHER HAS GIVEN THE SON AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT. ONE DAY, THE LORD JESUS WILL SIT UPON THAT THRONE. AND YOU KNOW, REALLY IT'S INCUMBENT ON US TO INVESTIGATE THE IDENTITY OF JESUS, BECAUSE YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO IT SEEMED TO BE IMPORTANT TO JESUS WITH REGARD TO HIS IDENTITY. AND THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE TODAY, THEY COME SHORT OF ADMITTING HIS DEITY. AND YET TO FAIL TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT HIS DEITY IS REALLY FATAL SPIRITUALLY, BECAUSE JESUS SAID IN JOHN CHAPTER 8, EXCEPT YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM, HE SAID, YOU'LL DIE IN YOUR SINS. AND SO WHEN WE TALK ABOUT JESUS SITTING UPON THAT THRONE, AND ONE DAY, AS PAUL SAID, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW, EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD. I WAS THINKING THIS MORNING, I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE RANKEST INFIDELS IN THE WORLD, PAST, PRESENT, ET CETERA, EVERYONE'S GOING TO BOW, EVERYONE IS GOING TO ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS CHRIST AS THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. SO WITH REGARD TO STANDING BEFORE HIM ON THAT GREAT AND FINAL DAY, WHAT ARE SOME THOUGHTS THAT MAYBE PEOPLE OUGHT TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO?

>> IT'S INTERESTING THAT YOU MENTIONED THAT BOWING OF THE KNEE AND THE WORD JUDGMENT IN THE SAME SENTENCE, BECAUSE PAUL IN ROMANS 14 SAYS IN VERSE 10, WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. AND THEN RIGHT AFTER HE SAYS THAT, STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, IT'S WRITTEN, AS I LIVE, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD, SO THAT EVERY ONE OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD. AND THAT'S WHY PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 2 EMPHASIZES THIS SAME CONCEPT OF EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS. I GREW UP IN THE '70S, AND THERE WAS A VERY FAMOUS COMMERCIAL THEN CALLED THE FRAM OIL MAN WOULD COME ON. AND HE WOULD BE STANDING UNDER THIS CAR THAT WAS UP ON A RACK, AND HE WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS: YOU CAN PAY ME NOW OR YOU CAN PAY ME LATER. BUT THE IDEA WAS, YOU'RE EITHER GOING TO PAY ME TO SERVICE YOUR CAR NOW TO KEEP IT FROM GETTING DAMAGED OR RUINED BY NOT TAKING CARE

OF IT, OR YOU'RE GOING TO PAY ME LATER WHEN IT'S TOO LATE OR WHEN IT'S GOING TO BE COSTLY. WE CAN EITHER SHOW OUR RESPECT TO HIM NOW BY CONFESSING HIM IN THE HERE AND THE NOW AND RECEIVE THE BENEFITS AND BLESSINGS OF SO DOING, OR WE CAN CONFESS HIM ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT WHEN IT'S TOO LATE FOR IT TO BE ANY ETERNAL GOOD TO US. BUT WE ARE GOING TO. EVERYONE, AS YOU NOTED, IS GOING TO CONFESS THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST. SO WE'D BETTER COME TO GRIPS WITH THAT AND DO IT NOW WHILE IT WOULD STILL GIVE US SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE A BLESSING.

>> WELL, NO DOUBT. AND YOU KNOW, B.J., THERE ARE A LOT OF FOLKS THAT WANT TO SOMEHOW SEPARATE JESUS FROM HIS WORD, FROM SCRIPTURE; AND YET THE TWO GO HAND IN HAND. JESUS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN JOHN CHAPTER 8 SAID, YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE. IN JOHN 12 HE TALKED ABOUT, HE THAT REJECTS ME, RECEIVES NOT MY WORD HAS THAT WHICH JUDGES HIM; THE WORD THAT I HAVE SPOKEN, HE SAID, THE SAME SHALL JUDGE HIM IN THE LAST DAY. SO TO INVESTIGATE THE IDENTITY OF JESUS AND THEN TO COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF HIS WILL, HIS WORD, HIS WAYS, AND TO BE WILLING TO BE RECEPTIVE TO HIS OVERTURES. JESUS IS DESIROUS OF ALL PEOPLE BEING SAVED. THAT'S WHY HE CAME. AND SO WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD AND THE FACT THAT ONE DAY WE'RE GOING TO STAND BEFORE JESUS, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW, EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD, TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS BOOK RIGHT HERE IS WHAT'S GOING TO JUDGE US, THAT IS A SOBERING THOUGHT.

>> IT IS. IT'S CALLED THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. AND JESUS SAID THE WORD THAT HE HAS SPOKEN, THE SAME WILL JUDGE MEN IN THE LAST DAY. I TEACH IN A SCHOOL, AND OF COURSE OUR STUDENTS ARE ALWAYS GOING TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO BE ON THE TEST. WHAT DO I NEED TO STUDY TO GET READY FOR THE TEST? WHAT'S THE INTENDED MATERIAL FOR THE TEST? WE'RE GOING TO STAND AND FACE A TEST ON THE JUDGMENT DAY, NO EXEMPTIONS. THERE'S A FINAL EXAM OF ALL FINAL EXAMS COMING OUR WAY. WHAT'S GOING TO BE ON THE TEST? THE WORDS THAT CHRIST HAS SPOKEN WILL JUDGE US IN THE LAST DAY. AND SO I CAN FIND THOSE WORDS. AND BY THE WAY, THAT DOESN'T JUST MEAN THE RED LETTERS, AS SOME ERRONEOUSLY SUGGEST, MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN HAVE THE ONLY THING THAT'S GOING TO JUDGE? NO, BECAUSE WHAT PAUL SAID IN 1 CORINTHIANS 14:37 IS, THE THINGS THAT I WRITE ARE THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD. HOW SO, PAUL? BECAUSE JESUS IN JOHN 16 HAD SAID, THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL TAKE OF MINE AND SHOW IT TO YOU APOSTLES, AND THEN YOU'LL SEND IT OUT. SO THE EPISTLES ARE ALSO FROM CHRIST, EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T ALL CONTAIN DIRECT QUOTES FROM HIM. BUT THEY'RE FROM CHRIST. AND SO THIS IS THE TARGET MATERIAL THAT I NEED TO MASTER IN ORDER TO BE READY FOR THE FINAL DAY OF JUDGMENT. AND IT'S SIMPLE, IT'S CLEAR, IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND; IT'S JUST A MATTER OF AM I WILLING TO DO WHAT IT ASKS ME TO DO.

>> YOU KNOW, B.J., IN REVELATION CHAPTER 20, JOHN HERE IN VERSE 12 SAID, I SAW THE DEAD SMALL AND GREAT STANDING BEFORE GOD. HE SAID, AND THE BOOKS WERE OPENED. NOW, TO THOSE WHO HAVE THIS IDEA THAT THEY CAN JUST LIVE AS THEY PLEASE AND THEY CAN IGNORE SCRIPTURE, I THINK THE REFERENCE HERE WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT THE BOOKS BEING OPENED, I THINK HE'S TALKING ABOUT GOD'S WORD.

>> ABSOLUTELY. I'VE READ A COMMENTARY THAT SUGGESTED THE BOOKS ARE THE RECORD OF OUR DEEDS. BUT GOD, AN OMNIPOTENT, OMNISCIENT GOD, DOESN'T HAVE TO LOOK AT ME ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT AND SAY, NAME, PLEASE? OH, LET ME CHECK MY RECORDS ON YOU. HE KNOWS ME INSIDE AND OUT. THE CHURCHES OF ASIA

ALL HEARD THESE WORDS FROM JESUS: I KNOW THY WORKS. I KNOW YOU. HE KNOWS US THROUGH AND THROUGH. AND SO ON THE JUDGMENT DAY, HE WILL KNOW ME. HE WILL KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'VE DONE. THAT'S WHY IT SAYS, WE MUST ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST AND GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE THINGS WE'VE DONE IN THE BODY, WHETHER THEY BE GOOD OR BAD, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10. AND JESUS CHRIST WILL CERTAINLY BE A FAIR AND HONEST JUDGE. HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED THESE SHOWS ON TELEVISION WHERE JUDGE JUDY OR JUDGE JOE OR JUDGE WAPNER IN MY DAY MAKES SOME DECISION, AND YOU MIGHT NOT AGREE WITH IT. YOU THINK MAYBE HE WAS WRONG IN HIS DECISION. JUDGE JESUS NEVER MAKES A WRONG DECISION, AND HE WILL NOT MAKE ANY WRONG DECISIONS ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.

>> I THINK ABRAHAM WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID, SHALL NOT THE JUDGE OF ALL THE EARTH DO RIGHT? GOD'S GOING TO DO RIGHT. AND WE CAN EXPECT A FAIR, EQUITABLE DAY OF JUDGMENT. BUT LISTEN, TO THOSE WHO ARE UNPREPARED, THEY STAND IN JEOPARDY. WE TALK A LOT ABOUT TODAY ABOUT FOLKS NOT HEARING MUCH ABOUT HELL. JESUS HAD MORE TO SAY ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF HELL THAN ANY OTHER PERSON SPOKEN OF IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. SO THE DANGER OF BEING LOST, SEPARATED FOREVER FROM GOD, WHAT WOULD A PERSON NEED TO DO TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD, TO BE A PART OF THE CHURCH, TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS, AS YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO, AND BLESSINGS OF BEING ONE OF GOD'S CHILDREN?

>> YOU KNOW, JESUS CHRIST HAS COMPASSION AND WANTS NO ONE TO BE LOST. HE WEPT OVER THE CITY OF JERUSALEM ACCORDING TO LUKE 19:41 AND FOLLOWING, AND HE SAID, HOW MANY TIMES I WOULD HAVE TAKEN YOU UNDER MY WING, BUT YOU WOULD NOT. HE WANTS US TO BE SAVED, BUT WE HAVE TO BE WILLING TO DO WHAT HE'S ASKED US TO DO. WHAT HAS HE ASKED US TO DO? WE'RE NOT JERUSALEM, BUT WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DO SOME THINGS BY THE SAME ONE WHO LOVED THOSE SOULS THERE. YOU ALREADY NOTED, EXCEPT YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM HE, YOU'LL DIE IN YOUR SINS. JESUS DOESN'T WANT ME TO DIE IN MY SINS. AND IF I'LL BELIEVE THAT HE IS WHO HE CLAIMS TO BE AND BELIEVE IT TO THE POINT THAT I CONFESS IT AND I'M WILLING TO CHANGE MY LIFE, I'LL REPENT OF MY SINS. THE GOODNESS OF GOD WILL MAKE ME WANT TO REPENT, ACCORDING TO ROMANS 2:4. HE'S BEEN SO GOOD TO ME, WHY WOULD I NOT WANT TO CONFORM TO HIS WILL WHEN HE'S BEEN SO GOOD TO ME, ROMANS 2:4? SO I BELIEVE HE'S THE CHRIST, I'M WILLING TO REPENT OF MY SINS BECAUSE ALL MEN EVERYWHERE HAVE BEEN COMMANDED TO DO THAT. AND THEN THE NEXT STEP IS TO MAKE A CONFESSION LIKE THE EUNUCH DID, I BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD. THAT'S WHAT ACTS 8:37 SAYS. AND AS SOON AS THAT WAS STATED, CHARIOT COMES TO A STANDSTILL, PHILIP AND THE EUNUCH GO DOWN INTO THE WATER, HE BAPTIZES HIM, THEY COME UP OUT OF THE WATER. THAT'S WHEN HE GOES ON HIS WAY REJOICING. WHY? BECAUSE BAPTISM'S FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, ACCORDING TO ACTS 2:38. IT'S TO WASH AWAY SINS, ACTS 22:16. AND IT'S TO PUT ON CHRIST, GALATIANS 3:27. AND IT ADDS US TO THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, ACTS 2:47. AND SO THIS PLAN OF SALVATION, WE PROBABLY MENTION IT I THINK ON EVERY PROGRAM, DON'T WE, MIKE? AND WHY? WE WANT OUR VIEWERS TO KNOW THAT THIS IS WHAT WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE JUDGED BY.

>> AND YOU KNOW, B.J., TO EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT WHAT WE'RE SAYING COMES RIGHT OUT OF THE BIBLE.

>> YES.

>> AND WE'RE NOT REGURGITATING WHAT SO MANY PEOPLE HEAR IN THE DENOMINATIONAL WORLD: ACCEPT THE LORD JESUS INTO YOUR HEART, BOW YOUR HEAD, SAY THIS PRAYER. NO. AND PETER AND THE APOSTLES HAD THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. PENTECOST DAY, WHEN THEY WERE ASKED, MEN AND BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO, THEY SAID, NUMBER ONE, REPENT; NUMBER TWO, BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. B.J., THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

>> NO. YOU DON'T SEE US READING FROM A CREED BOOK ON THIS PROGRAM, A DENOMINATIONALLY WRITTEN CREED BOOK WRITTEN BY UNINSPIRED MEN WHO HAPPENED TO MEET AT A CONVENTION AND COME UP WITH CHURCH POLICY FOR THE YEAR, WHATEVER YEAR IT IS. OUR CREDO, THE LATIN TERM CREDO MEANS I BELIEVE. OUR ONLY CREED IS CHRIST, AND OUR ONLY BOOK IS HIS WORD THAT WILL JUDGE US IN THE LAST DAY. AND SO THAT IS WHY WE'RE CONSTANTLY MENTIONING PASSAGES BACK AND FORTH, BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT WE ARE ASKING PEOPLE TO BELIEVE, NOT WHAT MIKE HIXSON THINKS OR B.J. CLARKE THINKS; BECAUSE ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT, WHAT'S THAT WORTH?

>> I MEAN, REALLY, AS PETER SAID, IF ANY MAN SPEAK, LET HIM SPEAK AS THE ORACLES OF GOD. SO REALLY, IT'S NOT ABOUT US.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> IT'S ABOUT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS. AND PAUL ASKED THAT QUESTION ON ONE OCCASION. HE ASKED IN ROMANS CHAPTER 4, WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURE? SO WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IS JUST GIVE YOU BOOK, CHAPTER, AND VERSE.

>> AMEN. YES, SIR.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, B.J., AS ALWAYS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU. AND THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR PROGRAM TODAY. WE APPRECIATE SO MUCH THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME INTO YOUR HOME, TO STUDY WITH YOU. WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT WHAT'S BEEN SAID TODAY WILL BLESS YOUR LIFE. HOPE TO SEE YOU BACK HERE AGAIN NEXT WEEK. UNTIL THEN, GOD BLESS.

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