

>> 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.

>> (SINGING)

CLIFF >> HELLO. MY NAME IS CLIFF GOODWIN, AND I'M VERY THANKFUL THAT YOU HAVE TUNED IN AND JOINED ME HERE TODAY FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL. THE PRIVILEGE IS MINE INDEED TO BE WITH YOU AND FOR US TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER TO TAKE OUR BIBLES AND TO OPEN THEM AND TO STUDY THE WORD OF GOD. GO AHEAD AND BE OPENING YOUR BIBLE WITH ME AT HOME. LET ME REMIND YOU THAT IN ALL MATTERS RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL, THAT NO MAN, NO MAN LIVING ON THIS EARTH TODAY IS THE AUTHORITY. INSTEAD, THE AUTHORITY LIVES RIGHT HERE IN THE SACRED SCRIPTURES, THE HOLY BIBLE, THE WORD OF GOD. AND SO STUDYING FROM THIS WORD TODAY, I'VE ENTITLED OUR SERMON SIMPLY, WHAT BIBLICAL FAITH INVOLVES. WHAT BIBLICAL FAITH INVOLVES. NOW, CONSIDER WITH ME THAT I DID CAREFULLY INCLUDE THE WORD BIBLICAL IN THAT TITLE, AND FOR THIS REASON: IN THE MODERN RELIGIOUS WORLD, THERE IS PROBABLY NO SHORTAGE OF MATERIAL BEING PRESENTED AND PREPARED, LESSONS BEING DELIVERED, DISCUSSIONS BEING MADE REGARDING THE IDEA OF FAITH. MUCH IS SAID, MUCH IS WRITTEN, MUCH IS PREACHED ABOUT FAITH. AND YET WHAT OUGHT TO CONCERN YOU AND ME, WHAT REALLY OUGHT TO OCCUPY OUR INTEREST IS BIBLICAL FAITH. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FAITH IS INDEED ACCURATE, WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FAITH IS INDEED CREDIBLE, AND WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FAITH IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT. AND SO I WANT US TODAY TO CONSIDER BIBLICAL FAITH, NOT A PSEUDO FAITH THAT IS BEING PREACHED THROUGHOUT THE DENOMINATIONAL WORLD, FOR EXAMPLE; BUT IN THE BIBLE, IN THE SCRIPTURES, WHAT DOES REAL FAITH INVOLVE? AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THIS EXHAUSTIVELY HERE TODAY, CERTAINLY NOT IN A HALF HOUR, BUT WE WILL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THREE BASIC IDEAS BASICALLY USING THE EPISTLES TO THE THESSALONIANS. BUT BEFORE WE GET THERE, LET'S INTRODUCE IT WITH THIS PASSAGE FROM HEBREWS 11:1. HERE THE BIBLE SAYS, NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. AND SO WHEN WE'RE DEALING WITH FAITH, WE'RE DEALING WITH THAT WHICH UNDERGIRDS, THAT WHICH SUPPORTS AND HOLDS UP OUR HOPE AS CHRISTIANS. IT IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR; BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS THE EVIDENCE OR THE CONVICTION OF THINGS NOT SEEN. IN OTHER WORDS, FAITH INVOLVES INFORMATION THAT IS NOT EMPIRICAL, INFORMATION THAT IS DEPENDENT ON REVELATION, DIVINE. INSPIRED REVELATION, WHEREBY MAN IS ABLE TO LEARN AND UNDERSTAND FACTUAL SPIRITUAL REALITIES THAT OTHERWISE YOU AND I SIMPLY WOULD NOT NOR COULD NOT KNOW, APART FROM GOD'S REVELATION. AND SO WE'RE DEALING WITH FAITH IN THE BIBLICAL SENSE. WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE? LET'S GET RIGHT INTO THIS STUDY NOW. AGAIN, WE'RE BASICALLY GOING TO BE USING THE THESSALONIAN EPISTLES. CONSIDER WITH ME, NUMBER ONE, FAITH INVOLVES KNOWING. IT INVOLVES KNOWING. IN THE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS JUST NOW, I'VE HINTED AT THIS; BUT LET ME CLEARLY STATE THAT FAITH ITSELF, BIBLICAL FAITH, IS A FORM OF KNOWLEDGE. IT IS. MANY PEOPLE IN THE MODERN WORLD, THEY LIKE TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE, WEAKENING THE IDEA OF FAITH. IN OTHER WORDS, FAITH IS AT BEST A SUPPOSITION. FAITH IS A HUNCH, OR FAITH IS A WELL-WISHING THOUGHT. NO, NOT BIBLICALLY SPEAKING. BIBLICALLY SPEAKING, FAITH IS A FORM OF KNOWLEDGE. PAUL WOULD WRITE IN ROMANS 10:17, SO THEN FAITH COMES BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD. AND SO THE BASIS, THE SOURCE, AND IN A SENSE THE ORIGIN OF FAITH IS

THE WORD OF GOD, INSPIRED REVELATION. HEREIN MAN IS ABLE TO READ AND LEARN WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED; AND BASED ON THAT KNOWLEDGE, MAN HAS LEARNED SPIRITUAL REALITIES. HE KNOWS CERTAIN THINGS SIMPLY BECAUSE GOD HAS REVEALED THEM IN HIS WORD. AND SO IN THIS WAY, FAITH IS A FORM OF KNOWLEDGE. AND IN FACT, TRUE BIBLICAL FAITH DEFINITELY INVOLVES KNOWING. LOOK WITH ME TO 1 THESSALONIANS 1:6. PAUL WOULD SAY, AND YE BECAME FOLLOWERS OF US AND OF THE LORD, HAVING RECEIVED THE WORD IN MUCH AFFLICTION WITH JOY OF THE HOLY GHOST. THE THESSALONIANS WERE A BODY OF BELIEVERS, A CONGREGATION OF WHICH HAD BEEN BORN IN PERSECUTION. YOU CAN READ ABOUT THEIR BEGINNINGS IN ACTS CHAPTER 17. AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH IN THESSALONICA, THERE WAS PERSECUTION ASSAILING THOSE CHRISTIANS. WELL, PAUL SAYS, YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE WORD IN MUCH AFFLICTION. IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE BEING PERSECUTED, YOU STILL RECEIVED THE WORD. YOU WERE STILL LEARNING, YOU WERE STILL BEING TAUGHT, YOU WERE STILL COMING TO KNOW WHAT THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES. FAITH INVOLVES THAT. NOW LET'S MOVE OVER ONE CHAPTER STILL INTO 1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2. NOTICE WHAT WE FIND AT VERSE 13. HE SAYS, FOR THIS CAUSE ALSO THANK WE GOD WITHOUT CEASING, BECAUSE WHEN YOU RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD WHICH YE HEARD OF US, YOU RECEIVED IT NOT AS THE WORD OF MEN, BUT AS IT IS IN TRUTH OR AS IT IS IN ACTUALITY, IT'S THE WORD OF GOD; WHICH EFFECTUALLY OR EFFECTIVELY WORKETH ALSO IN YOU THAT BELIEVE. AND SO PAUL WAS THANKFUL FOR THE FACT THAT WHEN HE AND HIS EVANGELISTIC COLLEAGUES HAD BROUGHT THE GOSPEL TO THESSALONICA, THAT THOSE WHO RECEIVED IT, THEY RECEIVED IT NOT MERELY AS MEN'S DOCTRINE, MEN'S TEACHING, BUT THEY RECEIVED IT AS IT IS IN TRUTH, THE WORD OF GOD. AND THAT WORD THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED, THAT WORD THAT THEY HAD LEARNED AND, NATURALLY, THE WORD THAT THEY NOW KNEW, IT WAS WORKING IN THEM. IT WAS AT WORK IN THEIR HEARTS AND IN THEIR LIVES, TRANSFORMING WHO THEY WERE. AND THAT'S ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL ASPECTS OF CHRISTIANITY. NOW, LET'S MOVE OVER INTO 2 THESSALONIANS. GO WITH ME TO CHAPTER 1 AND VERSE 10. SPEAKING OF THE RETURN OF CHRIST ONE DAY, WHEN HE SHALL COME TO BE GLORIFIED IN HIS SAINTS AND TO BE ADMIRING IN ALL THEM THAT BELIEVE - NOW NOTICE, PAUL INCLUDES THE THESSALONIANS IN THAT NUMBER - BECAUSE OUR TESTIMONY AMONG YOU WAS BELIEVED IN THAT DAY. I'VE INCLUDED THIS PASSAGE FROM THE SECOND THESSALONIANS EPISTLE BECAUSE OF PAUL'S INSPIRED USAGE OF THE WORD TESTIMONY. THAT'S AN IMPORTANT WORD. IT'S A WORD THAT IS RELATED TO THE WORD WITNESS, WHICH IS RELATED IN TURN TO THE WORD MARTYR. NOW, AT THIS JUNCTURE, YOU AND I ARE REMINDED THAT ALL OF THE APOSTLES APPARENTLY, EXCEPT JOHN, ALL THE OTHER APOSTLES ULTIMATELY SUFFERED A MARTYR'S DEATH. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY DIED AS WITNESSES OF THE RESURRECTED CHRIST AND AS TEACHERS OF HIS GOOD NEWS, THE GOSPEL MESSAGE. THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT'S SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THIS WORD TESTIMONY. NOT ONLY IS IT LINKED TO THE IDEA OF A WITNESS AND TO THAT OF A MARTYR, BUT THE WORD TESTIMONY ITSELF INDICATES TO US THAT IT IS EVIDENTIAL IN ITS NATURE. IN A COURT OF LAW TODAY, TESTIMONY FROM A WITNESS IS ADMITTED INTO THE CASE AS EVIDENCE. NOW THINK HOW POWERFUL THIS IS. THE APOSTLE PAUL AND OTHERS WITH HIM HAD BROUGHT THE GOSPEL TO THE CITY OF THESSALONICA; AND WE LEARNED BACK IN 1 THESSALONIANS 1:5 THAT IT HAD COME IN POWER AND IT HAD COME WITH THE HOLY GHOST. AND SO NO DOUBT THERE WAS THE MIRACULOUS CONFIRMATION OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE THERE IN ANCIENT THESSALONICA. AND SO PAUL IS ABLE TO SAY, LOOK, YOU HEARD OUR TESTIMONY. WE WERE PRESENTING YOU WITH EVIDENCE. THE MESSAGE THAT WE SPOKE, IT WAS CONFIRMED BY THE MIRACULOUS AND IT WAS EVIDENTIAL. IT WAS EVIDENCE. NOW, THIS IS SOMETHING AGAIN ABOUT FAITH THAT WE WOULD DO WELL TO UNDERSTAND IN THESE MODERN TIMES. BIBLICAL FAITH IS NOT - AND I

WANT TO STRESS - BIBLICAL FAITH IS NOT A BLIND LEAP IN THE DARK. NOT AT ALL. BIBLICAL FAITH IS BASED ON EVIDENCE; NAMELY, THE EVIDENCE RIGHT HERE, KNOWN AS SCRIPTURE, THE WORD OF GOD. AND SO KEEP THAT IN MIND FROM 2 THESSALONIANS 1:10, BECAUSE BIBLICAL FAITH INVOLVES KNOWING. THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE KNOW. AND THE ONLY WAY THAT WE KNOW THESE THINGS IS BECAUSE OF INSPIRED REVELATION. ONE MORE PASSAGE. STAY IN 2 THESSALONIANS, AND LOOK WITH ME TO CHAPTER 2, BEGINNING AT VERSE 14, WHEREUNTO, THAT IS, TO SALVATION, HE CALLED YOU BY OUR GOSPEL, THE GOSPEL MESSAGE, TO THE OBTAINING OF THE GLORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. THAT IS STILL TODAY HOW GOD CALLS THE SOULS OF MEN AND WOMEN: BY THE GOSPEL. VERSE 15, THEREFORE BRETHREN, STAND FAST AND HOLD THE TRADITIONS WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT. TAUGHT? CIRCLE THAT WORD. WHETHER BY WORD OR OUR EPISTLE. AND SO YET AGAIN HERE FROM THE THESSALONIAN EPISTLES WE SEE THAT BIBLICAL FAITH INVOLVES KNOWING. IT INVOLVES KNOWLEDGE. AND KNOWLEDGE ITSELF, OF COURSE, INVOLVES LEARNING AND BEING TAUGHT. THERE IN VERSE 15 THAT WE JUST READ TOGETHER, THE APOSTLE PAUL REMINDED THE THESSALONIANS, HEY, YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT. YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY WORD, WHICH IN THIS CONTEXT IS INDICATING THE ORAL TEACHING THAT PAUL DID WHILE AT THESSALONICA PERSONALLY; BUT THEY HAD ALSO BEEN TAUGHT BY EPISTLE. THAT IS, THEY HAD BEEN TAUGHT IN WRITING OR BY WAY OF THESE LETTERS THAT PAUL WAS SENDING TO THEM. AND HOW THANKFUL WE ARE THAT THEY ARE YET PRESERVED FOR US STILL TODAY, 1ST AND 2ND THESSALONIANS. AND SO WE LEARN FROM THAT ONE STATEMENT THERE IN VERSE 15 THAT THE WORD OF GOD IS THE WORD OF GOD WHETHER IT IS PREACHED ORALLY OR WHETHER IT IS READ IN ITS DOCUMENTED SCRIPTURAL FORMAT, SCRIPTURE MEANING THE HOLY WRITINGS IN THAT NARROW SENSE. AND SO IT'S ALL THE WORD OF GOD. WHETHER WRITTEN DOWN OR PREACHED ALOUD, WE ARE TO BE TAUGHT THEREBY. FAITH COMES BY HEARING, HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD. WE ARE TO BE TAUGHT. THEREFORE, BIBLICAL FAITH CERTAINLY INVOLVES KNOWING. BUT NOW LET'S MOVE TO A SECOND COMPONENT. NUMBER TWO, BIBLICAL FAITH INVOLVES CHANGING. IT INVOLVES CHANGING AS WELL. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THE MODERN RELIGIOUS WORLD, SADLY, THAT WOULD PROBABLY DIFFER WITH THIS PRESENT POINT. MANY PEOPLE APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT ALL THE PERSON HAS TO DO IN ORDER TO HAVE BIBLICAL FAITH, AND THEREFORE SAVING FAITH, IS SIMPLY TO HAVE A MENTAL ASSENT, TO AGREE MENTALLY WITH THE LORDSHIP, THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST, TO AGREE MENTALLY WITH THE FACT OF HIS DEATH, HIS BURIAL, AND HIS RESURRECTION, AND THEN SUPPOSEDLY THAT PERSON IS SAVED. THERE IS NO CHANGE WHATSOEVER REQUIRED. WELL, FRIENDS, I WANT TO POINT OUT TO YOU FROM THE SCRIPTURES, SUCH IS NOT BIBLICAL FAITH. AGAIN, WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE USING THE EXAMPLE OF THE THESSALONIANS. SO LOOK WITH ME TO 1 THESSALONIANS 1:8-9. FOR FROM YOU, YOU THESSALONIANS, SOUNDED OUT THE WORD OF THE LORD, NOT ONLY IN MACEDONIA, WHERE THESSALONICA WAS LOCATED, AND ACHAIA, WHERE CORINTH AND ATHENS WERE LOCATED, BUT ALSO IN EVERY PLACE YOUR FAITH - MARK THAT - YOUR FAITH TO GODWARD IS SPREAD ABROAD, SO THAT WE NEED NOT TO SPEAK ANYTHING. IF I COULD PARAPHRASE THAT, PAUL IS BASICALLY SAYING THE NEWS OF YOUR CONVERSION, THE NEWS OF YOUR FAITH, THE NEWS OF YOUR GREAT CHANGE HAS SPREAD EVERYWHERE. VERSE 9, FOR THEY THEMSELVES SHOW OF US WHAT MANNER OF ENTERING IN WE HAD UNTO YOU. NOTICE WHAT THE RESULT WAS. AND HOW YE TURNED TO GOD FROM OUR IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD. NOW, YOU MIGHT MARK THAT WORD TURNED THERE IN VERSE 9, BECAUSE THAT WORD INDICATES A CHANGE. SOME OF YOU PERHAPS, AS YOU'RE LISTENING, YOU MIGHT BE THINKING, WELL, CLIFF, WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CHANGING, AREN'T WE REALLY TALKING ABOUT REPENTANCE MORE THAN FAITH? AND YES, IN ONE SENSE, WE ARE. REPENTANCE IS A CHANGE OF HEART RESULTING IN A CHANGE OF LIFE. ABSOLUTELY. BUT OUR POINT HERE TODAY IS THAT TRUE BIBLICAL FAITH SHOULD ALWAYS RESULT

IN REPENTANCE. THE TWO SHOULD NEVER BE DIVORCED. IF A MAN OR A WOMAN DOES NOT BELIEVE STRONGLY ENOUGH TO REPENT OR CHANGE, THEN THEIR FAITH, SO TO SPEAK, FALLS SHORT OF THE BIBLICAL STANDARD. IN THIS PASSAGE, CHAPTER ONE, VERSES 8 AND 9, WHAT WE LEARNED IN THIS FIRST INSTANCE IS THAT BIBLICAL FAITH INVOLVES CHANGING RELIGIOUSLY. THINK ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT THAT MUST BE, AND IT IS; AND YET IT IS NECESSARY, ALL THE SAME. THE THESSALONIANS, MANY OF THEM, HAD FOR GENERATIONS COME FROM A PAGAN BACKGROUND. THEY AND THEIR FATHERS, THEIR FOREFATHERS, THEIR ANCESTORS BACK GENERATION AFTER GENERATION BEFORE THEM, THEY HAD WORSHIPPED IDOLS, AS WE NOTICED THERE IN VERSE 9. AND YET NOW THESE TO WHOM THE APOSTLE PAUL HAD BROUGHT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, THEY WERE CHANGING. THEY HAD CHANGED. THEY WERE EXERCISING BIBLICAL FAITH, AND THAT RESULTED IN THEIR CHANGING RELIGIOUSLY. FRIENDS, THE SAME IS STILL NEEDED TODAY. NOW, I KNOW THAT THE THESSALONIANS HAD CHANGED FROM PAGANISM TO WORSHIPING THE TRUE AND THE LIVING GOD; BUT OVER IN THE BOOK OF GALATIANS, CHAPTER 1, VERSES 12 THROUGH 14, SAUL OF TARSUS WAS ALREADY WORSHIPING THE TRUE AND THE LIVING GOD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, AND YET HE, TOO, HAD TO CHANGE RELIGIONS. HE HAD TO CHANGE IN ORDER TO OBEY AND FOLLOW CHRIST. TODAY, IN THE MODERN DENOMINATIONAL WORLD, FOR EXAMPLE, MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN THE GOD OF THE BIBLE. THEY BELIEVE IN THE TRUE AND THE LIVING GOD, AND YET THEY ARE LOST IN DENOMINATIONAL ERROR. THEY ARE LOST, TRAGICALLY, IN DENOMINATIONAL CHURCHES, THE CHURCHES OF MEN INSTEAD OF THE CHURCH OF THE BIBLE. AND SO TRUE BIBLICAL FAITH WILL RESULT IN ONE'S CHANGING RELIGIOUSLY AS HE OR SHE LEARNS AND FOLLOWS THE UNADULTERATED GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. THAT'S NOT THE ONLY CHANGE, HOWEVER. GO OVER WITH ME NOW TO 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1. FURTHERMORE THEN, WE BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, AND EXHORT YOU BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT AS YE HAVE RECEIVED OF US HOW YOU OUGHT TO WALK AND TO PLEASE GOD, SO YOU WOULD ABOUND MORE AND MORE; FOR YE KNOW WHAT COMMANDMENTS WE GAVE YOU BY THE LORD JESUS. AND SO OBVIOUSLY HERE IS INDICATED A CHANGE IN LIFE. THE APOSTLE IS REMINDING THE THESSALONIANS, LOOK, WE TAUGHT YOU HOW THAT YOU ARE NOW TO LIVE AS CHRISTIANS, AS CHILDREN OF GOD. WE'VE GIVEN YOU THE COMMANDMENTS THAT YOU ARE TO KEEP IN CHRIST. HE SAYS I WANT YOU TO ABOUND MORE AND MORE IN THIS WAY. THINK ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT THAT IS. THAT IS LIVING A CHANGED LIFE. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. LET'S STAY IN 1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 4, AND LET'S NOTICE A CHANGE MORALLY SPEAKING. AT VERSE 3, CONTINUING ON, HE SAYS, FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD, PARTICULARLY IN THIS AREA, EVEN YOUR SANCTIFICATION, THAT YE SHOULD ABSTAIN FROM FORNICATION. SO THIS INDICATES A MORAL CHANGE OF LIFE. NOT IN THE LUST OF CONCUPISCENCE, OR EVIL DESIRE, EVEN AS THE GENTILES WHICH KNOW NOT GOD. I WANTED TO INCLUDE VERSE 5 IN THIS CONTEXT BECAUSE HE MENTIONS THE GENTILES WHICH KNOW NOT GOD, THEY STILL RAMPANTLY PRACTICE FORNICATION. BUT YOU WHO NOW KNOW GOD, YOU'RE TO ABSTAIN FROM THIS MORALLY. WELL, KNOWING IS A PART OF BIBLICAL FAITH, JUST LIKE CHANGING IS A PART OF BIBLICAL FAITH. HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE APPRECIATE BOTH OF THESE ASPECTS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN BIBLICAL FAITH. WELL, I HAVE MORE TO SAY ALONG THESE LINES, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF TIME, I WANT US TO MOVE TO OUR THIRD POINT. AND THAT IS, BIBLICAL FAITH ALSO INVOLVES WAITING. IT INVOLVES WAITING. LOOK WITH ME TO 1 THESSALONIANS 1:10, AND TO WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN, WHOM HE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, EVEN JESUS, WHICH DELIVERED US FROM THE WRATH TO COME. THESE THESSALONIANS HAD COME TO KNOW GOD AND TO KNOW HIS WILL. THEY HAD CHANGED, TURNING FROM IDOLS TO THE TRUE AND THE LIVING GOD. AND NOW THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS URGING THEM TO WAIT, TO LIVE DAILY THE FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN LIFE, AND TO WAIT DAY BY DAY BECAUSE, AS YOU AND I KNOW, JESUS IS, HE IS COMING BACK. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN. NO MAN

KNOWS THE DAY NOR THE HOUR, BUT WE KNOW THE FACT OF IT. AND SO BIBLICAL FAITH INVOLVES WAITING. WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT THIS IS THAT HERE IN 1 THESSALONIANS 1:10, PAUL HAS MADE REFERENCE TO THE FUTURE JUDGMENT DAY. THE LORD JESUS IS COMING BACK, AND WE'RE TO WAIT FOR THAT. LOOK WITH ME NOW OVER TO CHAPTER 3. IN CHAPTER 3 AND VERSE 13, HE AGAIN REFERENCES THE FUTURE JUDGMENT DAY. TO THE END HE MAY ESTABLISH YOUR HEARTS UNBLAMEABLE IN HOLINESS BEFORE GOD, EVEN OUR FATHER, AT THE COMING OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL HIS SAINTS. AGAIN, PAUL SAYS JESUS IS COMING BACK. HE'S COMING BACK ONE DAY WITH ALL OF HIS HOLY ONES. THAT'S THE MORE LITERAL TRANSLATION OF THE WORD THEIR RENDERED SAINTS. JESUS IS COMING BACK WITH ALL OF HIS HOLY ONES ONE DAY, AND PAUL SAYS I WANT YOU TO BE ESTABLISHED, UNBLAMEABLE IN HOLINESS. AND SO AS WE WAIT IN FAITH FOR THE COMING JUDGMENT, WE ARE MINDFUL AND WE ARE CAREFUL TO BE LIVING HOLY LIVES, LIVING FAITHFULLY DAY IN, DAY OUT, WAITING, BECAUSE WE KNOW THE DAY OF REWARD IS COMING. AND AGAIN, IN CHAPTER 5 THIS TIME, 1 THESSALONIANS 5:9, FOR GOD HATH NOT APPOINTED US TO WRATH, BUT TO OBTAIN SALVATION BY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. WHEN JESUS COMES BACK, THERE WILL BE WRATH UPON THOSE WHO ARE LOST; BUT UPON US WHO ARE SAVED, IT WILL MEAN SALVATION. AND FINALLY, AS WE MOVE INTO 2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 1, IT WILL MEAN REST. SEEING IT IS A RIGHTEOUS THING WITH GOD TO RECOMPENSE TRIBULATION TO THEM THAT TROUBLE YOU; AND TO YOU WHO ARE TROUBLED, THE SAVED, REST WITH US WHEN THE LORD JESUS SHALL BE REVEALED FROM HEAVEN WITH HIS MIGHTY ANGELS. HOW WONDERFUL TO KNOW THAT BIBLICAL FAITH INVOLVES WAITING AND THAT OUR WAITING WILL NOT BE IN VAIN. 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, 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 ONCE AGAIN FOR STUDYING WITH ME TODAY CONCERNING BIBLICAL FAITH AND WHAT IT INVOLVES. I WANT TO INVITE YOU BEFORE OUR TIME IS UP, PLEASE GO AND VISIT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. I TRUST THAT YOU'LL FIND A WELCOME THAT IS BOTH WARM AND INVITING AND THAT YOU'LL FIND A GROUP OF BELIEVERS WHO LOVE THE LORD AND WHO HAVE REVERENCE FOR HIS WORD AND ARE SEEKING TO DO HIS WILL. THANK YOU AGAIN, AND MAY GOD BLESS.

>> (SINGING)