

>> 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. THE JOY AND THE PRIVILEGE IS MINE TO BE WITH YOU TO HAVE MY BIBLE IN HAND SO THAT I CAN SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD. NOW, ALWAYS I WANT TO INVITE YOU AND URGE YOU TO JOIN ME WITH YOUR BIBLE IN HAND AS WELL. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT EVEN IN RELIGION, THAT NO MAN LIVING ON EARTH TODAY IS THE AUTHORITY. IN MATTERS OF RELIGION AND SPIRITUAL TRUTH, IT IS ALWAYS THE WORD OF GOD, THE BIBLE THAT IS OUR SOLE AND FINAL AUTHORITY FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE, FOR WHAT WE TEACH AND WHAT WE PRACTICE IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES, AND FOR THAT MATTER, IN OUR DAILY LIVES AS HUMAN BEINGS. THESE THINGS BEING SAID, WE'VE COME TO OUR STUDY FOR TODAY. I'VE SIMPLY ENTITLED THIS STUDY, THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. NOW, OBVIOUSLY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WORDS THAT HAVE COME DOWN TO MANKIND FROM HEAVEN ITSELF, FROM GOD HIMSELF, AND YET WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS STUDY PARTICULARLY FROM JOHN CHAPTER 6. AND SO LOOK WITH ME FIRST OF ALL AT THESE VERSES AS WE INTRODUCE THIS STUDY. BEGINNING AT VERSE 66, FROM THAT TIME, MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WENT BACK AND WALKED NO MORE WITH HIM. THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THE TWELVE, WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY? THEN SIMON PETER ANSWERED HIM, LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? THOU HAST THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. AND WE BELIEVE AND ARE SURE THAT THOU ART THAT CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD. NOW, OFTENTIMES WHEN WE THINK ABOUT THE APOSTLE PETER, WE MIGHT THINK ABOUT THOSE TIMES IN WHICH HE WAS RATHER IMPETUOUS, TIMES IN WHICH HE SPOKE FIRST, HE SPOKE QUICKLY, AND HE MAYBE SPOKE IN A MANNER IN WHICH HE PUT HIS OWN FOOT, AS IT WERE, IN HIS MOUTH. BUT RIGHT HERE IN JOHN 6 AS WE READ PARTICULARLY VERSES 68 AND 69, THE APOSTLE PETER HIT THE NAIL RIGHT ON THE HEAD. HE WAS SPOT ON WITH HIS ASSESSMENT AND WITH HIS CONCLUSION. HE KNEW THAT JESUS WAS THE CHRIST, THE ANOINTED ONE OF GOD; AND CONSEQUENTLY, HE KNEW THAT THE WORDS, THE MESSAGE, THE REVELATION THAT JESUS WAS BRINGING INTO THIS WORLD, HE KNEW THAT HIS MESSAGE WAS THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. NOW, WHAT I WOULD LIKE FOR US TO DO DURING THE SCOPE OF THIS STUDY TOGETHER TODAY, I WOULD LIKE FOR US TO REMAIN FOR THE MOST PART HERE IN JOHN CHAPTER 6. WE MIGHT OCCASIONALLY LOOK AT SOME OTHER VERSES; BUT FOR THE MOST PART, WE'RE GOING TO STAY RIGHT HERE IN JOHN 6. AND I WANT US TO NOTICE THREE CHARACTERISTICS REGARDING THESE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. THREE CHARACTERISTICS. ALL RIGHT, LOOK WITH ME, NUMBER ONE, TO THIS FIRST POINT. THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE ARE WORDS THAT ARE NOT ALWAYS POPULAR. WORDS THAT ARE NOT ALWAYS POPULAR. NOW, PERHAPS WHEN YOU FIRST HEAR THAT, IT MIGHT STRIKE YOU AS COUNTER-INTUITIVE. AFTER ALL, CERTAINLY ANYTHING THAT WOULD LEND ITSELF TO ETERNAL LIFE, ETERNAL BLISS, ETERNAL HAPPINESS, WELL, SURELY EVERYONE WOULD RECEIVE SUCH WORDS WELL. BUT SADLY, THAT IS NOT THE CASE. IT IS THE CASE RATHER, THAT WITH THE WORDS OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, YES, WORDS THAT LEAD TO ETERNAL LIFE POTENTIALLY, SO MANY PEOPLE REJECT THOSE WORDS. SO MANY PEOPLE FIND OR DISPLAY NO INTEREST, LITTLE TO NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN WHAT JESUS HAD TO SAY ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE AND HOW ONE CAN RECEIVE AND ENJOY ETERNAL LIFE

ONE DAY. LOOK BACK WITH ME HERE IN JOHN CHAPTER 6 NOW, AND LET'S GO THROUGH SOME PASSAGES. FIRST OF ALL, IN VERSES 41 AND 42, THE JEWS THEN MURMURED AT HIM BECAUSE HE SAID, I AM THE BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN. AND THEY SAID, IS NOT THIS JESUS, THE SON OF JOSEPH, WHOSE FATHER AND MOTHER WE KNOW? HOW IS IT THEN THAT HE SAITH, I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN? SO NOTICE RIGHT HERE EVEN IN THESE TWO VERSES THAT JESUS IN THE MANNER OF THIS DISCOURSE, THE PEOPLE'S REACTIONS, SOME OF THEM WERE MURMURING AGAINST HIM. THEY WERE MURMURING AGAINST HIM BECAUSE OF THE CLAIM THAT JESUS HAD MADE. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN. NOW, THAT WOULD SEPARATE JESUS FROM EVERY OTHER MERE MORTAL MAN. THAT WOULD ELEVATE JESUS ABOVE MERE MORTAL MAN. AND APPARENTLY, THE PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE, THEY APPRECIATED THAT FACT, THEY RECOGNIZED THE IMPLICATIONS OF WHAT JESUS WAS SAYING, AND YET THEY REJECTED IT OR THEY MURMURED AT IT, BECAUSE IN THEIR EYES, JESUS IS SIMPLY THE SON OF THE CARPENTER. HE'S THE SON OF JOSEPH AND MARY, AND THEY KNOW HIS FAMILY, THEY'VE KNOWN JESUS, AND SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR HIM TO MAKE A CLAIM SUCH AS THIS. YOU PROBABLY SEE WITH ME THAT THESE PEOPLE ALREADY HAD BIAS. THEY ALREADY HAD PRECONCEIVED IDEAS IN THEIR MINDS. AND BY THE WAY, IN THEIR MINDS, THEIR IDEAS WERE WELL FOUNDED FROM THEIR PERSPECTIVE. AND YET THERE WAS INFORMATION TO WHICH THEY HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN MADE PRIVY. IN OTHER WORDS, YES, THEY KNEW A NUMBER OF THINGS ABOUT JESUS; BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT JESUS, AND THEY CERTAINLY DIDN'T KNOW EVERYTHING THEY THOUGHT THEY KNEW ABOUT JESUS. AND SO THE MESSAGE HE BROUGHT ON THIS OCCASION PROVED UNPOPULAR TO THE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY ALLOWED THEIR PRECONCEIVED BIASES AND THEIR MISCONCEPTIONS, EVEN THEIR LACK OF INFORMATION, THEY ALLOWED THOSE THINGS TO PREJUDICE THEIR MINDS AGAINST HIM. NOW, STAY WITH ME IN JOHN 6, AND LET'S GO TO ANOTHER PASSAGE. DOWN AT VERSE 52, LATER ON IN THIS DISCOURSE, THE JEWS THEREFORE STROVE AMONG THEMSELVES, SAYING, HOW CAN THIS MAN GIVE US HIS FLESH TO EAT? JESUS, AS HE PROCEEDED IN THIS DISCOURSE, HE INTRODUCES SOME FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE. AND WE'RE GOING TO SAY MORE ABOUT THAT IN OUR NEXT POINT. BUT THE PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN, THEY SIMPLY BALKED AT THIS. FOR THEM, THIS WAS ANOTHER REASON TO REJECT, ANOTHER REASON FOR THEM TO SAY NO, NO, THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH WHAT HE'S TELLING US. THIS MAN, HOW'S HE GOING TO GIVE US HIS FLESH TO EAT? THEY'RE NOT EVEN WILLING, APPARENTLY, NOT EVEN WILLING TO ENTERTAIN THE POSSIBILITY THAT PERHAPS JESUS IS SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY. YOU KNOW, WE AS PEOPLE TODAY, IF WE SIMPLY DO NOT WANT TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, IF WE'VE ALREADY MADE OUR MINDS UP AGAINST SOMETHING IN PARTICULAR, WELL, THEN WE WILL LIKELY ACT MUCH THE SAME WAY. A PERSON MAKES A STATEMENT THAT HE OBVIOUSLY INTENDS IN ONE SENSE, BUT WE INSIST ON PRESSING IT INTO ANOTHER SENSE, A SENSE THAT WOULD CAUSE IT TO BE INCOMPREHENSIBLE, A SENSE THAT WOULD CAUSE IT TO BE ABSURD, PERHAPS. BUT WE PRESS IT INTO THAT SENSE SO THAT WE CAN DENY IT, SO THAT WE CAN REJECT IT AND FEEL JUSTIFIED IN OUR OWN MINDS. WELL, CERTAINLY THAT IS NOT HONEST, THAT IS NOT FAIR, AND THAT IS CERTAINLY NOT THE WAY THAT WE SHOULD APPROACH ANYONE, AND ESPECIALLY NOT THE WAY THAT WE SHOULD APPROACH THE SON OF GOD AND THE MESSAGE THAT HE HAS BROUGHT DOWN TO US. ONE MORE PASSAGE HERE IN JOHN 6. NOTICE VERSES 60 AND 61, MANY THEREFORE OF HIS DISCIPLES, WHEN THEY HAD HEARD THIS, SAID, THIS IS A HARD SAYING. WHO CAN HEAR IT? WHEN JESUS KNEW IN HIMSELF THAT HIS DISCIPLES MURMURED AT IT, HE SAID UNTO THEM, DO THOSE THINGS OFFEND YOU? IN OTHER WORDS, DOES WHAT I HAVE JUST TAUGHT, DOES IT CAUSE YOU TO STUMBLE AT MY TEACHING, TO REJECT WHAT I'M SAYING? HE ASKED THAT QUESTION. NOW, IT'S INTERESTING THAT THESE PASSAGES TELL US THESE WERE HIS DISCIPLES. IN OTHER WORDS,

THESE WERE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN FOLLOWING JESUS, WHO HAD BEEN LEARNING FROM JESUS, AND THEY WERE INTERESTED IN DOING SO. AND YET WHEN JESUS MADE THESE CLAIMS THAT HE MADE HERE IN JOHN CHAPTER 6, ESPECIALLY AS THE CHAPTER GOES ON AND AS WE GET TOWARD THE END OF THIS DISCOURSE, JESUS MAKES SOME VERY EXCLUSIVE CLAIMS, HE MAKES SOME VERY GREAT AND NOTABLE CLAIMS, AND SO THE PEOPLE REACT BY SAYING, HEY, THIS IS A HARD SAYING. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN SWALLOW THIS. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN ACCEPT THIS. AND JESUS KNEW THAT. HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN THEIR HEARTS. AND SO HE ASKED THEM THAT QUESTION, NOT FOR HIS OWN INFORMATION NECESSARILY, SO MUCH AS ASKING THEM SO THAT THEY WOULD GIVE PAUSE AND REFLECT ON WHAT THEY WERE ABOUT TO DO. THEY ARE ABOUT TO WALK AWAY FROM ONE WHO HAD BEEN THEIR MASTER, ONE WHOM THEY HAD RECOGNIZED AS A GREAT RELIGIOUS TEACHER; AND YET THEY'RE NOW ON THE VERGE OF WALKING AWAY FROM HIM BECAUSE HE'S TAUGHT THEM SOME DIFFICULT TEACHINGS. I BELIEVE THESE PASSAGES FROM JOHN 6 CLEARLY ARE SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH OUR FIRST POINT. YES, THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE ARE NOT ALWAYS POPULAR WORDS. THAT MESSAGE, THOSE DOCTRINES, THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS WELL RECEIVED BY THE MASSES. AND STILL TODAY THAT IS THE CASE, SADLY. AND SO WE DO NOT NEED TO GROW DISCOURAGED IN OUR DISCIPLESHIP FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST, WE DO NOT NEED TO GROW DISCOURAGED SIMPLY BECAUSE WE NOTICE THAT MANY OTHER PEOPLE DO NOT POPULARLY RECEIVE HIS WORDS. THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE. BEFORE WE LEAVE THIS FIRST POINT, LET'S GO TO MATTHEW FOR JUST A MOMENT. LOOK WITH ME AT MATTHEW 15 BEGINNING AT VERSE 12 ON ANOTHER OCCASION. THEN CAME HIS DISCIPLES, TO JESUS, AND SAID UNTO HIM, KNOWEST THOU THAT THE PHARISEES WERE OFFENDED AFTER THEY HEARD THIS SAYING? BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID, EVERY PLANT WHICH MY HEAVENLY FATHER HATH NOT PLANTED SHALL BE ROOTED UP. AND THEN JESUS GAVE THIS INSTRUCTION. HE SAID, LET THEM ALONE; THEY, THE PHARISEES, THEY BE BLIND LEADERS OF THE BLIND. AND IF THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND, BOTH SHALL FALL INTO THE DITCH. THIS IS A VERY SOBERING READING THAT WE'VE JUST NOTICED TOGETHER FROM MATTHEW 15. BUT IF I MAY, LET ME DRAW OUT JUST THREE OBVIOUS LESSONS THAT WE LEARN FROM EVEN THAT TEXT, MATTHEW 15:12-14. NUMBER ONE, THE SAYINGS OF JESUS HAVE OFFENDED PEOPLE FROM THE TIME OF HIS MINISTRY. PEOPLE TODAY SOMETIMES SPEAK OF BEING OFFENDED AT THE BIBLE OR OFFENDED AT BIBLICAL TEACHING. BUT I WOULD SIMPLY SAY, AND I SAY THIS WITH LOVE AND RESPECT, BUT THAT IS NOTHING NEW. THAT IS NOTHING NEW. EVEN WHEN JESUS WAS ON EARTH HIMSELF, HE OFFENDED PEOPLE WITH HIS TEACHING. OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO BECAME OFFENDED AT HIS TEACHING. SO NOTICE THAT, NUMBER ONE. NUMBER TWO, NOTICE THAT THIS IS DEALING WITH A HEART PROBLEM. THE REASON THAT THE PHARISEES WERE OFFENDED, THE REASON THAT THEY STUMBLERED AT THE TEACHING OF JESUS IS BECAUSE THEIR HEARTS WERE NOT RIGHT BEFORE GOD. THEY DID NOT POSSESS THE GOOD AND HONEST HEART THAT JESUS DESCRIBED TO US IN THE PARABLE AND IN THE INTERPRETATION REGARDING THE SOWER, LUKE CHAPTER 8 AND SPECIFICALLY LUKE 8:15. AND SO BECAUSE THEIR HEARTS WERE NOT RIGHT AND HONEST BEFORE GOD, THEY WERE NOT RECEPTIVE TO THE TRUTH THAT JESUS HAD BROUGHT, THE TRUTH THAT JESUS HAD TAUGHT. AND THEN FINALLY NUMBER THREE, NOTICE THE PRESCRIPTION OR THE INSTRUCTION GIVEN TO THE APOSTLES, GIVEN TO HIS OWN DISCIPLES. AND THIS IS SAD, BUT JESUS SAID, LET THEM ALONE. THEY BE BLIND LEADERS OF THE BLIND; AND IF THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND, AS WE KNOW, BOTH SHALL FALL INTO THE DITCH. THIS IS A HARD REALITY FOR US TO ACCEPT AS CHRISTIANS AND AS SOUL WINNERS SOMETIMES. BUT WHEN SOULS PROVE RESISTANT TO THE TRUTH, THERE COMES A POINT AT WHICH WE NEED TO LEAVE THEM ALONE. WE NEED TO REDIRECT OUR EFFORTS ELSEWHERE, AND WE NEED TO SHAKE, AS IT WERE, THE DUST OFF OF OUR FEET, OFF OF OUR SANDALS, AND WE NEED TO MOVE

ON. SO ALL OF THAT EVEN THERE FROM MATTHEW CHAPTER 15. ALL RIGHT. LET'S MOVE ON NOW TO OUR SECOND POINT REGARDING THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. AND THAT IS THEY ARE WORDS THAT ARE SPIRITUAL IN NATURE. WORDS THAT ARE SPIRITUAL IN NATURE. NOW, I HINTED AT THIS A MOMENT AGO IN OUR FIRST POINT, AND NOW I WANT US TO ELABORATE A LITTLE MORE FULLY ON THIS IDEA. IF YOU READ THE ENTIRETY OF THE DISCOURSE THAT'S RECORDED HERE IN JOHN CHAPTER 6, AS I MENTIONED A MOMENT AGO, YOU'LL SEE THAT JESUS USED A LOT OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE. HE WAS SPEAKING IN SPIRITUAL OR FIGURATIVE TERMS TO EXPRESS SPIRITUAL REALITIES. WELL, OFTENTIMES THAT IS DONE IN FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE, LANGUAGE THAT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE PRESSED LITERALLY, AND LANGUAGE THAT CANNOT BE PRESSED LITERALLY IF THE HEARER IS GOING TO COME AWAY WITH A PROPER UNDERSTANDING. LET'S LOOK AT A VERSE HERE IN JOHN 6. LOOK AT VERSE 51. JESUS SAYS, I AM THE LIVING BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN. IF ANY MAN EAT OF THIS BREAD, HE SHALL LIVE FOREVER. AND THE BREAD THAT I WILL GIVE IS MY FLESH WHICH I WILL GIVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD. NOW, QUICKLY YOU CAN SEE THE PROBLEMS THAT ARISE IF A SOUL BEGINS TO PRESS THOSE WORDS LITERALLY. JESUS SAYS I AM THE BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND THEN HE SPEAKS ABOUT PEOPLE EATING THAT BREAD, AND THEN HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE BREAD SPECIFICALLY IS HIS FLESH. SEE, IF WE'RE DOGMATIC AND IF WE'RE INSISTENT ON PESSING A LITERAL INTERPRETATION ON WHAT JESUS IS SAYING, WE'LL COME AWAY, I GUESS ADVOCATING CANNIBALISM, EATING THE FLESH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST LITERALLY. FRIENDS, I HOPE IT IS CLEAR ENOUGH FOR ANY OF US TO SEE THAT JESUS THERE WAS SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY. HE WAS USING WORDS THAT WERE SPIRITUAL IN THEIR IMPORT. THE LESSON HE WAS GETTING ACROSS IS SPIRITUAL IN ITS NATURE, NAMELY, THAT JESUS IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF SALVATION AND OF ETERNAL LIFE. JESUS IS THIS BECAUSE HE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN. HE'S NOT MERELY A MORTAL MAN. HE'S SO MUCH MORE. HE'S THE GOD MAN, IF YOU WILL. GOD CAME IN THE FLESH. AND SO BY EATING HIS FLESH, WE'RE NOT LITERALLY DOING SO, BUT WE'RE PARTAKING OF HIS SACRIFICE. IT WOULD BE HIS FLESH, HIS BODY THAT WOULD BE NAILED TO THE CROSS OF CALVARY. AND THUS, THOSE WHO SUBMIT THEMSELVES TO HIS GOSPEL PLAN, THOSE WHO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE SAVING BENEFITS OF THAT SACRIFICE ON CALVARY, THEY ARE SAID, SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING, TO EAT OR TO PARTAKE OF JESUS. AND FRIENDS, IT SHOULD GO WITHOUT SAYING THAT NO ACCOUNTABLE SOUL CAN BE SAVED, NOT ONE, NO ACCOUNTABLE SOUL CAN BE SAVED UNLESS HE OR SHE PARTAKES SCRIPTURALLY OF JESUS, COMING TO HIM, SUBMITTING TO HIM, OBEYING AND FOLLOWING HIM. LOOK AT ANOTHER EXAMPLE HERE NOW FROM JOHN 6. MOVE DOWN TO VERSE 63. HERE JESUS HIMSELF SPOKE, AND HE SAID, IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT QUICKENETH, OR THE SPIRIT THAT GIVES LIFE. THE FLESH ALONE PROFITETH NOTHING. THEN JESUS ADDED, THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT, WE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT, THEY ARE SPIRITUAL, AND THEY ARE LIFE. THAT IS, THEY ARE LIFE-GIVING. AND SO RIGHT THERE IN VERSE 63 JESUS SAID HIMSELF, AND HE SAID IT SO PLAINLY, HE SAYS, LOOK, I'M SPEAKING WITH SPIRITUAL WORDS. I'M SPEAKING HERE USING SYMBOLISM, USING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE. I'M SPEAKING A SPIRITUAL MESSAGE THAT WARRANTS SPECIAL COMMUNICATION. BE CAREFUL HOW YOU HEAR. BE CAREFUL HOW YOU UNDERSTAND. AND STILL TODAY WE KNOW, WE KNOW THE PROBLEMS OF RADICAL LITERALISM WHEN IT COMES TO THE BIBLE AND TO INTERPRETING THE BIBLE. THERE IS SO MUCH FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES. SO OFTEN, IN FACT, THAT WHEN PEOPLE PRESS A LITERAL INTERPRETATION ON WHAT SHOULD OBVIOUSLY BE FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE, THEY COME AWAY WITH SOME STRANGE DOCTRINES INDEED. NOW, I UNDERSTAND AND I WANT TO BE CAREFUL TO SAY THAT WE ARE NOT TO ALLEGORIZE OR SPIRITUALIZE ALL OF THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE. I KNOW TO DO SO WOULD BE TO ROB THE BIBLE OF

ITS BASIC MEANING. AND I'M NOT ADVOCATING FOR THAT AT ALL. BUT FRIENDS, IN EVERYDAY LIFE, IN EVERYDAY COMMUNICATION WE ARE ABLE TO USE GOOD COMMON SENSE, THE FACULTY OF HUMAN REASONING, AND WE'RE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE WHEN WE ENCOUNTER IT. WHY THEN CAN WE NOT DO THAT WHEN IT COMES TO THE WORD OF GOD? I WANT US TO MOVE AHEAD TO 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 2, AND I WANT YOU TO NOTICE WHAT THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID AT VERSE 13. HE SAID, WHICH THINGS ALSO WE, THE APOSTLES AND INSPIRED MEN, WHICH THINGS ALSO WE SPEAK, NOT IN THE WORDS WHICH MAN'S WISDOM TEACHETH, BUT WHICH THE HOLY GHOST TEACHETH, COMPARING SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL. AND THE AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION SUPPLIES, SPIRITUAL WORDS. SO WE NEED TO KEEP IN MIND THAT THE WORDS OF THE BIBLE ARE INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. THEY ARE GIVEN TO US BY GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT, AND SO THESE WORDS ARE RIGHT. AND AS HUMAN NATURE IS SUCH THAT WE USE FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ON A DAILY BASIS, ALL OF US DO, GOD IN HIS WISDOM, WHEN HE COMMUNICATED TO US HIS WORD, HE ALSO EMPLOYED FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FROM TIME TO TIME AS THE SPIRIT SAW FIT. SO WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF THAT AND WE NEED TO BE RESPECTFUL OF THAT FACT. NOW, ONE LAST POINT, NUMBER THREE, ABOUT THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. AND THAT IS JESUS MADE IT CLEAR HERE IN JOHN 6 THAT THESE WERE WORDS BACKED BY HEAVEN'S AUTHORITY. THAT'S MOST IMPORTANT, IS IT NOT? IF YOU JUST CAME TO CLIFF GOODWIN AND CLIFF GOODWIN ALONE WITHOUT ANY OF HIS INSTRUCTION FROM THE BIBLE, WITHOUT ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCRIPTURES, IF YOU JUST CAME TO ME AND SAID HEY, CLIFF, CAN YOU TELL ME HOW I CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE? AND IF I BEGAN TO DRAW FROM THE WELLS OF CLIFF GOODWIN'S INTUITION, I CAN'T EVEN SAY THAT WITHOUT SMILING, BECAUSE THAT'S LUDICROUS, THAT'S ABSURD. NEITHER CLIFF GOODWIN NOR ANY OTHER MORTAL MAN, APART FROM BIBLICAL REVELATION, NONE OF US ARE IN A POSITION TO GIVE YOU WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. BUT JESUS WAS. THE WORDS THAT JESUS BROUGHT WERE BACKED BY HEAVEN'S AUTHORITY. THESE ARE THE WORDS RIGHT HERE THAT WE HAVE IN THE WORD OF GOD. NOW, WHEN CLIFF GOODWIN OR ANY OTHER FAITHFUL GOSPEL PREACHER PREACHES THE WORD OF GOD, THOSE ARE WORDS WE NEED TO LISTEN TO. BUT THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE BACKED, NOT BY MAN'S AUTHORITY, BUT BY HEAVEN'S AUTHORITY. LOOK WITH ME TO THIS TEXT IN JOHN 6. VERSE 26, JESUS ANSWERED THEM AND SAID, VERILY, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, YOU SEEK ME NOT BECAUSE YOU SAW THE MIRACLES, BUT BECAUSE YOU DID EAT OF THE LOAVES AND WERE FILLED. JESUS SAID, LABOR NOT FOR THE MEAT WHICH PERISHETH, BUT FOR THAT MEAT WHICH ENDURETH UNTO EVERLASTING LIFE, WHICH THE SON OF MAN SHALL GIVE UNTO YOU; FOR HIM HATH GOD THE FATHER SEALED. ONLY OF JESUS IN THIS PARTICULAR MANNER COULD IT BE SAID THAT GOD THE FATHER HAD SEALED HIM. IN OTHER WORDS, HE WAS THE ANOINTED ONE, HE WAS THE CHRIST. THEREFORE, THE WORDS THAT HE BRINGS ARE BACKED BY HEAVEN'S AUTHORITY. MOVE DOWN LATER IN THIS DISCOURSE. VERSE 38, JESUS SAYS, FOR I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN NOT TO DO MINE OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME. AGAIN, HEAVEN'S AUTHORITY WAS VESTED IN JESUS. AFTER ALL, HE WAS GOD MADE FLESH, JOHN 1:14. AND THEN ONE FINAL PASSAGE HERE FROM JOHN CHAPTER 6. VERSE 62, HE ASKED HIS HEARERS, HE SAYS, WHAT, AND IF YE SHALL SEE THE SON OF MAN ASCEND UP WHERE HE WAS BEFORE. IN OTHER WORDS, JESUS ALREADY KNEW OF THE RESISTANCE IN THEIR HEARTS, AND HE'S BASICALLY ASKING OKAY, WHAT IF YOU SAW ME ASCEND BACK TO HEAVEN WHERE I CAME FROM? WOULD YOU LISTEN TO ME THEN? WELL, FRIENDS, THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS JESUS HAS ASCENDED BACK TO HEAVEN, AND STILL TODAY YOU AND I SHOULD LISTEN TO HIS WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.

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 CONSIDERING WITH ME THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. FRIEND, I WANT TO URGE AND ENCOURAGE YOU, SEEK OUT AND VISIT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. I TRUST THAT YOU'LL FIND A WELCOME BOTH WARM AND INVITING, AND YOU'LL FIND GOD'S CHILDREN WHO ARE EAGER TO STUDY WITH YOU THESE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. THANK YOU.

>> MORE ABOUT JESUS LET ME LEARN, MORE HIS OF 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.