

## God's Word, the Sword of the Spirit

by Bayless Conley

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I want to talk to you tonight about connecting with God through His Word, taking in the Word of God.

And I just want to begin with a question, why is God's Word, the Bible, so important to us as followers of Jesus? Why is it so important? Let me give you six reasons.

Number one, God's Book reveals God's thoughts; this is a book full of the thoughts of God. You want to know what God thinks, you want to know His will, you want to know His opinion, you should look in the Scriptures.

In Isaiah 55:8–11 God says this,

<sup>8</sup>“For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the Lord. <sup>9</sup>“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

And some people stop right there and say, “Yeah, God's thoughts are higher than ours, His ways as high as the heavens are, you just can never know. It's just a mystery.” But God didn't stop there. Yes, His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Yes, His ways are higher than our ways, but then He begins with a metaphor and tells us something that He's done. The next verse, verse 10,

For as the rain comes down, everyone say, “comes down.”

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, But water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;

Yeah, My thoughts are higher than your thoughts, but just like the rain and the snow come down from heaven, My thoughts that are higher than your thoughts, than the heavens are from the earth. My thoughts come down through My words, just like the rain comes down and causes things to be fruitful. God says, “I give you My thoughts so that your life can be fruitful.” He goes on, He said,

<sup>11</sup>So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

So yes, God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts, but His thoughts have come down. Just like the rain has come down. Just like the snow has come down.

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My words, they reveal my thoughts. You want to know what Bayless is thinking, listen to Bayless speak. My thoughts are revealed by my words. My words reveal my will. God's thoughts are revealed through His words, and His will is revealed through His Word.

We can know God's opinion of sickness, of sex, of raising kids, managing money, dealing with difficult people inside the church and outside of the church, how to treat the elderly, how to respond to governmental authority, how to love a brother and how to treat an enemy, and on and on and on. God's will is not meant to be some unsolvable enigma.

God wants us to know His thoughts. God wants us to know His will. He gave us a Book so that we can know His thoughts. He gave us a Book so that we can know His will.

My parents both passed away in the last year and a half, and they created a living trust before they died. They wrote down their thoughts about what they wanted to be done with all their stuff after they were gone. We knew their will because they had written it down. Their will was made clear.

God's will has been made clear because His words have been written down. So His Word is incredibly important for us. Yes, His thoughts are higher than our thoughts, but they've come down because He's given us His Word.

Secondly, it's important because His Word illuminates the path we should take. It illuminates the path we should take Psalm 119:104–105, it says,

<sup>104</sup> Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

<sup>105</sup> Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

See, there's a false way and a right way to walk in every circumstance. Every circumstance, every situation, there's a false way. And he said, "Look, I hate every false way, but through Your precepts I get understanding. Your Word illuminates my path so I can walk the right way and not walk in the wrong way."

I was, oh gosh, this would be 36 years ago now. Yeah, 36 years. We'd had the church in a little bitty storefront, and we're trying to move to a building here on Katella Avenue. It was actually a Commercial Office building. I went to the city. Back in those days, I had to do everything. I went to the city, we had to get a conditional use permit, in order to hold the church there. I'd met with the owner, and she wanted to have a church in there, and the buildings were empty, and so I went. And when I got to the city they pointed me in the appropriate direction, I went into the guy's office, I think he was the city manager, and there was somebody else there, told them what I wanted. He had another guy in his office, and they laughed at me and said, "That's not going to happen, and they basically kicked me out of the office."

That was as far as it got. I was literally laughed out of the building by two city officials. I was mad, I was frustrated, I was a bit humiliated and in my flesh I thought, "Okay, you want to go to war, let's go to war." But I was reading God's Book. You see, there's a false way, and then there's a right way to walk.

His Word is a lamp to my feet; it's a light to my path; it shows me the right way to walk. And I was searching the Scriptures and talking to God about it, and I read from Romans 12:21. It says,

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<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

It jumped off the page at me, I felt like the Holy Spirit spoke to me, and He said, "You need to overcome evil with good. You need to go back, but you need to go back in an opposite spirit."

Now I wanted to go toe to toe and say, look, maybe I can bring a little pressure to bear as well. But I went back in an opposite spirit, and I remembered what God said, "They laughed at you. They were arrogant. You need to go in a spirit of humility. Overcome evil with good, come with the opposite." I just felt like it was a word for me; it was light on the pathway.

So, I went back, and I'm waiting there at the counter, and this guy walks in. I didn't know it at the time, but it was the mayor. He said, "Hey, what's up? Can I help you?" I said, "Well, yeah, I'm actually here to talk to some guys about getting a conditional use permit."

He said, "Really, what for?" I told him about it and said, "You know I was here last week, and they basically laughed at me and told me it wasn't going happen." He said, "Really?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Come with me." He walks back, gets the two guys and said, "I understand this young man was here last week." He says, "I want you to help him. Make sure he gets his permits." And that was it, just lickety-split, they changed. We got the permits, and we're able to hold church there, and we were there for actually five years on Katella Avenue.

Then, a long story, but I'll make it very short. We got the property on Sausalito Street, where we actually built our first building there. And we have to go through the whole process again and once again it was pretty much me that had to do everything.

We had some preliminary meetings with the city council, and there was one council member that she was just against us, and it was irrational. I talked to her, and it's just like you couldn't have a, it wasn't a rational conversation about it. She was just dead set against us. We don't want a church there, period.

Anyway, I just kept thinking about those verses. Overcome evil with good, overcome evil with good. Come in an opposite spirit; this is several years down the road. God's still speaking to me through it. We got the news that one of a family member of hers died and so we sent a big bunch of flowers and sent her letters and said, "We are so sorry for your loss. If there's anything we can do, please let us know." She called. She said, "Why would you do that?"

We said, "Well, we just know you're probably going through a rough patch, and we just wanted you to know that we're here, and we really do care. We're really sorry about your loss, so please let us know if we can do anything." She says, "Okay, but I have to tell you I'm astounded. I didn't expect this." Because she'd set herself up as our enemy prior to this, anyway. The next council meeting, she suddenly has become a staunch ally. She fought for us, and she actually got the thing over the hump, and we got our permits, and we're able to build.

But, my point is it comes back to God's Word shows us which path to take. Because what you think may not be the right thing to do, but what God thinks is the right thing to do. And thank God His words have come down.

All right. The third reason His Word is important: His words are food for our spirit. Just like we must feed our bodies to stay strong physically, we must feed our spirits to stay strong spiritually.

Jeremiah 15:16 says,

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<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.

Your word was found and I ate it.

First Peter 2:2,

<sup>2</sup>as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.

You know, I'm sure it has always been this way, but at least in my experience, it's never been so pronounced. I have not met so many people that are professed foodies like in the last few years in my whole life. Some people's whole world revolves around food.

They talk food, they dream about food, they plan their next meals, their conversation revolves around ingredients and textures and aromas, and they can give you a bite by bite description of their last sumptuous meal. It's amazing to talk to them. Food is just such an important thing, and don't get me wrong, I like to eat.

I love food. You think it's good here, wait till you get to heaven. With all the textures and the flavors and the colors and the aromas we've got, man, it is bland compared to what we'll be dining on when we get into that celestial city.

But, I just want to tell you something here tonight, I've got a confession to make. I am a foodie, but I'm a Word foodie. Oh yes. I was reading 1 Peter the other day, and let me tell you it so impacted me about leadership. God just spoke to me so deeply. It just seemed to linger on my spiritual palate. I cannot describe to you how awesome it was.

And then reading through the first six chapters of Proverbs. I was stunned all over again about the importance of keeping our sexuality within God's ordained borders and the dangers of letting it flow outside of those borders. Man, it was rich. It was deep, and I encourage you, you need to take a bite.

You should read what I've been reading. You should digest what I've been digesting. It is so amazing. Be a Word foodie. Get it in your spirit, eat it, drink it, think about it. It will change you. It'll rock your world.

All right. Number four. It's important because God uses His Word to prune us and to correct us. Second Timothy 3:16–17,

<sup>16</sup>All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God's Word: good for reproof, good for instruction, good for correction. Jesus said it this way, John 15:1–3,

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

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That word *clean* it's actually the same Greek word translated pruned in the previous verse. Every branch, My Father prunes it that it may bring forth more fruit. Quite literally, Jesus said, "Now, are you pruned through the word that I have spoken on to you?" He corrects us so that we can be fruitful.

We have some friends that pastor a church in Temecula, and every once in a while, I'll go speak out there. I don't know if you know it or not, but Temecula's become a booming winery region. They've got over 40 wineries out there now. And sometimes they'll put us out; they've got these little hotels and cottages in the middle of the winery. And sometimes you're out there, and it's the time of year there's just green everywhere. You're sitting in this little cottage, and you're surrounded on all four sides by vineyard, and there are just huge luscious bunches of grapes hanging off the grapevines just a riot of green everywhere. But other times of the year you go, you can stay in the same cottage, and it's all brown. They cut those vines back to where they look like sticks. Literally, they cut all of the green off; they cut all the excess off. Why? So that it will be fruitful.

And God prunes our lives. Sometimes we put so much energy and so much time into certain things that we don't have enough energy left to be fruitful in important areas of our life. So God does prune us so that we can be fruitful, but He does it through His Word. He said it's profitable for correction.

I got back Monday morning; I was in Australia last week speaking. And if the plane is off just a few degrees, it gets off course; it doesn't seem like a big deal. Let's say it's five degrees off course, the farther you travel, the farther off course you're going to be. If you don't adjust, instead of ending up in L.A., you're going to end up in central Mexico. It makes that much difference the farther you go. And God's Word, it'll get us back on course when we get off of course. It corrects us; it instructs us.

I had a dear friend that went to the same church I did, and me and some of the other guys, actually me one of the pastors noticed that after service he'd be out on the side of the building holding hands and praying with this woman, which I guess that's cool, but it wasn't his wife, it was somebody else's wife. Maybe one time that's okay, but we saw it several times, and it just hit me sideways. He shouldn't be off alone somewhere praying with somebody else's wife. I started hearing little; people saying, "Why is he always hanging around with her?" And they're always praying together, that kind of a thing, but it was just wrong.

And so, we went to him in a spirit of love and said, "Look brother, we just tell you, the Bible says to avoid the very scenes of temptation, we endeavor to bring correction through the Word, avoid the very scenes of temptation. The Bible says, to avoid the appearance of evil. I said, "Maybe your heart's right, but it just doesn't look right. We've finished a Wednesday night Bible study, and you're off on the side of the building in the dark, praying with this other guy's wife all the time. It's just not right. It doesn't look right." And I said, "Besides that, you need to tend your own olive tree. Leave that other man's olive tree alone."

He got mad at us, said, "We're not doing anything wrong we're praying. What, shouldn't a man pray?" And just threw it back at us and wouldn't listen. Well, they got involved in an adulterous relationship. Both marriages shipwrecked. He wouldn't take the correction of God's Word. Avoid the scenes of temptation, avoid the appearance of evil. God corrects us through His Word, and we need to have an open heart.

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All right, let me give you another reason His Word is important: It makes faith come alive. Romans 10:17,

<sup>17</sup> So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Another translation says "Faith is awakened by hearing the Word of God." You could say faith comes alive by hearing the Word of God. That's faith for salvation, faith for healing, faith for whatever God promises.

There's a story in Acts 14 about Paul and Barnabas. In Acts 14:6–10, it says,

<sup>6</sup> they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. <sup>7</sup> And they were preaching the gospel there. <sup>8</sup> And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. <sup>9</sup> *This* man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, <sup>10</sup> said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

How did he have faith to be healed? Is faith just this thing; some people have got it, and some people don't. It's just this indescribable thing and, oh yeah, just like I've got faith. I can't quite tell you what it is. But, no. Paul was there preaching the gospel. The man heard them, and he had faith to be healed. It wasn't just, oh, well this guy had faith, and she has faith and, he's got faith over here. No, faith comes by hearing. He's preaching the gospel. Jesus saves, Jesus heals, Jesus baptizes in the Holy Spirit, and Jesus is coming again. And when he heard the Word preached, faith arose in his heart, and he was healed. Faith comes by hearing.

Now, a lot of you wouldn't know this; actually, it's 40 years back maybe, I was healed of a very, very serious heart condition. The way it happened is I read the Word, and I slept the Word, and I quoted the Word day and night, night and day, day, and night. Sometime I may share the whole story I have, but it's been years, decades and decades ago. But I would get up in the middle of the night, read healing Scriptures. I read Isaiah 53, that great redemptive chapter that talks about by His stripes, we're healed. I probably read it at least a dozen times a day. Something happened to me as I fed upon God's Word. All I can tell you is that the truth of healing was more real to me than my own name was.

God is not a respecter of persons. Faith is awakened. Faith comes alive by spending time in His Word. It will come alive for you if you feed upon it.

You don't have to try and have faith. If you'll feed on the Word, faith comes unconsciously.

Faith is awakened as you hear God's Word. It is so incredibly important. No Word, no faith. You feed on the Word; faith comes unconsciously as unconscious as breathing is. Get into God's Book.

All right, let me give you another reason why it's so important to us. It is our only offensive weapon against the enemy. Ephesians 6 talks about the armor of God, the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, the breastplate of righteousness. There's one offensive piece of gear there. Ephesians 6:17,

<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



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The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. And the word for *word* there is the Greek word *Rhema*. The sword of the Spirit, which is the spoken word of God. When you put God's word in your mouth, it becomes a sword that you drive off the enemy with it.

In Revelation 1:16 speaking about Jesus,

<sup>16</sup> He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.

Do you remember Jesus in the wilderness being tempted by the devil? Satan comes, "If You're the Son of God, command these stones be made bread, throw Yourself off the temple, et Cetera, et cetera." How did Jesus respond? Did He say, "Go away, devil, go away, devil—La, la, la, la, la, la. I can't hear you. I'm not listening. La, la, la, la, la." No. What did Jesus do? He said, "It is written." And He quoted the word of God. That sharp two-edged sword was in His mouth. And after a while, the Bible said the devil left Him for a season. I'm going to add, he left him, wounded and bloodied.

Jesus used the sword of the Spirit in the hour of temptation, and we need to do the same thing. When you are tempted, or you know that the enemy is behind a particular attack against you or against your family, put the Word of God in your mouth. Speak God's Word. It works like a sword.

We had a lady in our church many years ago. She and her husband actually moved to the Midwest, but they were with us for probably a dozen years. When I first met her, she had come out of this place of depression. I think she hadn't been out of her house for two years; she had not been outside for two years. She was just in this downward spiraling depression that just got worse and worse and worse, but she did something right. She got into God's Word, and she began to read it aloud. She put it in her mouth. It brought her out of that depression. And I always loved her being in service because whenever I couldn't think of a Scripture if I'd be preaching, I'd point at her and say, "What's that verse?" And she'd quote it. She was just a walking Bible. But it was coming out of her heart, and it set her free, and she tried to get other people to understand the same truth that it would set them free as well.

Now, all these things being true, we must make the intake of God's Word a spiritual discipline.

Here's a simple thing. If you will do what I'm about to tell you next, it'll change your life. I'm going to this: A call to arms; it is the sword of the Spirit. So, a call to arms. Here's a call to battle, A-R-M-S, you ready? A: *Accept His Word as your final authority*. Accept it as your final authority. Psalms 119:128,

<sup>128</sup> Therefore all *Your precepts concerning all things* I consider *to be* right.

If you will do that, the majority of life's questions are already answered for you. You won't even have to pray about a whole lot of stuff if you take His Word as your final authority. I accept God's Word as my final authority on marriage. I accept it as my final authority on managing my money. I accept it as my final authority on dealing with nasty people. I accept it as my final authority on being a friend. God, if You say it, I believe it, that settles it for me. Most of the questions that people grapple with in life, they're automatically answered if you will take God's

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Word as your final authority. So number one, accept it as your final authority. You have to start there.

Number two, R: *Read it*. Read it.

I was reading a story about Crowfoot. He was the chief of the Blackfoot Confederacy in Southern Alberta. And the Canadian railway wanted to put their tracks through the Blackfoot country, and he let them do it, and in exchange, they gave him a lifetime rail pass. So he could ride any of their trains for free anywhere for his entire life. But there's no record that he ever rode on one of those trains. When he got that lifetime pass, he put it in a leather pouch and tied it around his neck. To him, it was some sort of a talisman. Some people do that with the Word of God. It's ornamental. It's decorative. No friend, you need to read it. You need to use it. Read it, read it, read it.

I think it was Wesley who was visiting a parishioner. She was up in age. She was in the last few months of her life, she had lived in poverty, though the first half of her life, she lived quite well. She was a maid or a nanny for this very wealthy woman. And then the wealthy woman had died, and this woman had nothing, the one that had formerly been the nanny. And so she lived in this shack in the absolute poorest part of town; had a hand to mouth existence. And Wesley's there visiting her as she's on her death bed, and he notices a document that's framed on the wall.

He says, "What is this?" She says, "Well, it's very precious to me." My lady gave it to me before she died. Her employer had given it. He said, "Do you know what this is?" She says, "Well, I can't read. I don't know how to read, but it's very special. It's the only thing she left me." He said, "Can I borrow this?" She said, "Yeah, but you have to bring it back. It's very important to me." He went, had it authenticated, it was the woman's will, and she had left this gal a fortune. She had never partaken of any of it. She never read it. It decorated the wall of her house, much like Bibles sometimes decorate the coffee table in the living room or the nightstand in the bedroom. Read it, read it, read it. Accept it as your final authority and read it. Everybody say, "Read it."

All right. The next letter is, M: That's *meditate*. Psalm 1:1–3,

<sup>1</sup> Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

Now, the Hebrew word translated *meditate* means to read over and over. It means to think about, to muse upon, and it actually carries with the thought of muttering to yourself over and over. So, we need to read the Bible, but you also need to meditate.

I want you to listen to me, this is really simple, but it'll change your life if you accept it as your final authority, if you will read it. Systematically read it. I mean, start in the Gospel of John. Read through the New Testament if you've never done that. Just read it. Then you need to take a chapter. Maybe John 14, maybe Romans 8, maybe Psalm 91. I don't know, take something. Read it over and over and over. Read it three or four times a day. Read it out loud. Read it word by word. Chew on every word. Think about it. Read it and then read it again.



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Walk around a little bit. Take 10 or 15 minutes and read the chapter. Read a few phrases. Think about them. Say them to yourself over and over. That's meditation. That's what gets the Word from our head to our heart. That's what causes it to drop from here to here. It's really not that hard to do. You can do this. I can do this. Just read something. Take a chapter, read it over and over. In fact, I dare you. I double-dog-dare you. I triple-dog-dare you. Get you a chapter and read it at least two times a day throughout this whole week, every day. Just read it and see if God doesn't speak to you. Read it and think about it. You can do that. I can do that.

So accept it as our final authority. Read it, meditate. And then S: Sit under it. Hear it preached.

Ephesians 4:11–12 (ERV) says,

<sup>11</sup> And that same Christ gave these gifts to people: He made some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to go and tell the Good News, and some to care for and teach God's people. <sup>12</sup> Christ gave these gifts to prepare God's holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger.

What you're doing tonight, you're to be commended for that. You've come to sit under the Word of God and to hear it preached. You get fresh perspectives by doing that. You get fresh insights. There are people that God has put His hand on them specifically to teach and to preach the Word of God. Sometimes you will get something in a way that you haven't gotten it before, and it will help you grow, and it'll help you to become strong.

And of course all of these things, we do them with a view to put them into practice. That's why I accept it as my final authority, I read it, I meditate on it, and I hear it preached so that I can do it. So I can be like that man who built his house on the rock. When the rains descended, and the floods rose, and the winds blew, the house didn't fall because it was founded on the rock. But the one that heard and didn't do it, when the storm came, their house fell. We want to be doers of the Word and not merely hearers of the Word.

So, just make the determination, whatever comes alive to you, whatever you see, whatever you feel like God speaks to you from, make the determination that you're going to do it. Whether it has to do with submitting to governmental authorities, to how to respond in your marriage, to seek first the kingdom of God, to honor God with the first part your income, whatever it might be. When it's real to you, do it, and it will change your life.

Now I read those verses from Ephesians, and it says that some are called to teach the Word; others to tell the good news. I feel like I have a little bit of both of those things on my life. I feel like I'm called to teach the Bible, but I also feel like I'm called to do everything I can to bring people into the kingdom of God. I have not forgotten what it was like when I was unsaved. I have not forgotten the anguish of my heart and the emptiness of my heart. I have not forgotten the day that I came to Jesus, how He loved me, and how He changed me. My friend, He's real. He's alive. He died on Calvary's tree to bring you into a relationship with God. He loves you tonight.

Won't you bow your heads and close your eyes just for a moment if you would.

Father, we thank You for Your people that are here tonight. We thank You for every person that's come into this house. For every person that's listening to us via Livestream or through any other medium, I pray that You would reveal Yourself to their hearts, oh God. In Jesus' precious name.

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And if you're here friend, if you've never opened your heart to the Savior, if you've never personally accepted Jesus into your life and into your heart, I want to give you an opportunity to do it. I'm going to lead you in a simple prayer. I, however, can only give you the words, that's as far as I can go. But if you'll tie a sincere heart around these words and speak them to God, I believe that He'll meet you.

The Bible says that sin separated us from God and left us with no approach to Him. And when we could not reach Him, not through our good works, not through our personal sacrifice, He reached down to us in His mercy, and He sent His own Son. Born of a virgin, lived a sinless life. Then He was taken by jealous hands and crucified. Though they'd seen His miracles, they'd seen Him raise the dead; they'd seen Him heal the sick. He was put through a mock trial, beaten without mercy, and crucified. And there, hanging on that cruel beam of wood suspended between heaven and earth, the sky turned dark, and He cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" For at that moment, Jesus identified with the sin of humanity. The Father laid the just punishment of our sins upon His own Son, and Jesus died as our substitute.

After three days and three nights, the claims of God's eternal justice were satisfied, and Jesus was raised from the dead, and the Bible says, if you believe that and are willing to confess Him as Lord, that God brings you into a relationship the Bible calls salvation. If you're here tonight or if you're listening to me and you've never done it, we're going to pray. If you're a prodigal son or prodigal daughter that's away from home. It's time to come home, prodigal son. It's time to come home, prodigal daughter. I want to encourage you to pray as well.

Just tie your heart around these words. Let's pray together. Say,

Oh, God, I come to You. Come on, say it. Oh, God, I come to You. With all of my heart, I believe. I believe Jesus is Your Son. I believe He died on the cross to take away all my sins. I believe He was raised from the dead.

Jesus, come into my life. Thank You for loving me so much that You wouldn't leave me out. Thank You that You included me. Thank You that You have a place for me. I accept You as my Lord, and I want You to come into my life. Lead me and guide me. Give me understanding in Your Word. I want to walk with You, Jesus. It's in Your name, I pray. Amen. Amen. Hallelujah.

Band, I want you guys to come out.

You know, I try my very best, but I think that we don't really realize what a treasure we have in this Book. All of the things we said about it tonight, from the fact that it is a revelation of God's thoughts, a revelation of His will. It shows us the right pathway to take. It's food for our spirit. It's our weapon against the enemy and all the other things we mentioned. It is an absolute treasure. Have a love affair with God's Book. You cannot truly know God in an intimate way apart from His Word. It'll bring you into a close relationship with Him.

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