

OPENING PASSAGE

2 Timothy 3:16-18 All Scripture is ~~inspired by~~
~~God~~ θεόπνευστος/God-breathed and
profitable for [1] teaching, [2] for reproof,
[3]for correction, [4]for training in
righteousness/δικαιοσύνη; ¹⁷ that the man of
God may be ~~adequate~~
ἄρτιος/proficient/skilled [critical thinking
skills], equipped for every good work.

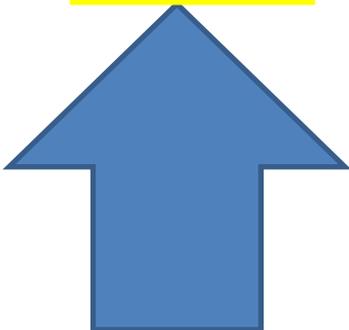
Jesus Christ = The Lord of the Church



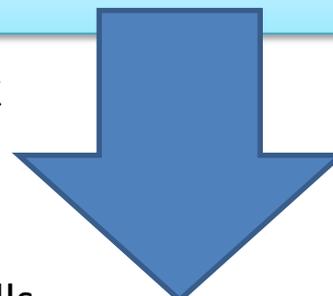
Holy Spirit

**Under-shepherds:
Guard Self,
Serve/teach JC,
Edify sheep w/
whole Counsel,
Protect flock,
against heresy**

Holy Spirit



Shepherding, overseeing the flock
Acts 20:28; Heb 13:17, 1 Pet 5:2-3
Through Bible doctrine



Holy Spirit

Critical thinking skills

3. Spiritual growth
2. The Spiritual Life
1. Salvation

**The Believer's Living Relationship with
Jesus Christ – the Abundant Life, Jn 10:10.
Christ living in and through the believer
through the Holy Spirit**

Philosophy of Ministry (Biblical Road Map; Spiritual Context; Presups)

- ✓ The 2 mandates: guard self & pastor/teach the sheep, Acts 20:28
1 Pet 5:2-3; Heb 13:17; Jn 21:15-17; Eph 4:12-16; 1 Tim 5:1; Tit 1:9
- ✓ Three lens approach. The need for critical thinking skills.
- ✓ Alternative = focus on pastor's preferences; what *wows* him; unbalanced; hobby horse theology; result = sick flock.
- ✓ Every believer should care about the church---he is in it.

Apostles/Doctrine = Foundation of the Church, Eph 2:20

LIFE OF DAVID (83) – DAVID'S RECOVERY FROM REVERSIONISM:
FAITH REST AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, Psa 56:11-13

Psalm 56:11-13 In God I have put my trust
(בַּאֱלֹהִים בְּטַחַתִּי), I shall not be afraid. What can
man do to me? ¹² Thy vows are *binding* upon me,
O God; I will render thank offerings to Thee. ¹³ For
Thou hast delivered my soul from death, Indeed
my feet from stumbling, So that I may walk
(לְהִתְהַלֵּךְ) before God (לְפָנַי אֱלֹהִים) In the light of
the living (בְּאֹר הַחַיִּים).

❖ FR is the only way to keep away fear and anxiety which are so pernicious to the spiritual life. With FR we trust God and move forward in SG in the POG. FR is the only way to really stop with our own machinations, reconnect us to the POG, and move us forward in SG, Philip 4:4-7.

1. The FR life brings a life of joy regardless of the circumstances of life because the faith rest and joy is “in the Lord,” (Χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ) Philip 4:4. Every believer should reflect on: How many things they are joyous about *in* the Lord? What are the things that bring the most joy? What is the object of joy? In Him we have everything to be joyous about. FR enables us to live differently and please God, cf. Heb. 11:6.

2. Because of the Lord we can rejoice *always* (πάντοτε), 4:4. This is absolutely impossible apart from fellowship with Christ. Apart from vital connection with the Vine, we will wither. When our joy is in the Lord it does not shift with the circumstances of life. Only the eternal things are stable, all else shifts daily.

3. Note Paul's effort in giving two present commands (Χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ πάντοτε· πάλιν ἔρῳ, χαίρετε). A gloomy, melancholy believer is a poor witness and is a reflection of a sick spiritual life that lives out of fellowship for extended periods of time.

4. It is easy not to worry when there does not seem to be any danger. However, Paul is in a Roman prison; and when Rome fixed its claws it did not usually let go without drawing blood. This could very well be the end of his life. What was Paul's attitude regarding death? Philip. 1:23.

5. Only through FR can we truly "worry about nothing" (μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε), 4:6. How else can someone truly face the possibilities that we all face, and not be anxious? FR is the only way to live fearlessly in the face of so many uncertainties and dangers.

6. “But” (ἀλλ’) sets up the alternative to a life of anxiety: FR. FR is powerfully applied by prayer and supplication, 4:6. It is the sure remedy to all situations. We each have a choice: worry and anxiety or pray and praise. If you do not pray about it, you will end up worrying about it. Note how Paul starts out Ephesians in 1:3-14. Why did he start the book this way?

7. “In everything (ἐν παντί)” – the believer who does not pray about everything will be worried about most things. His life will be marked by trouble and unrest. Your heart will always be filled with thoughts. Good or bad, nice or naughty. If something is big enough to worry you, it is big enough to talk to God about. If you are living in fellowship with Him, you will naturally and regularly communicate with Him, 1 Thess 5:17. How could any believer be close to the Lord and keep silent to God about what is troubling him? The importance of honest.

8. Prayer and supplication (τῆ προσευχῆ καὶ τῆ δεήσει), Phil 4:6) speaks of general and specific prayers. The need to be very specific. This is casting cares on the Lord.
9. “Thanksgiving” (εὐχαριστίας) – the spirit of all prayer. Everything that God sends to men is a cause of thanksgiving.
10. Gaining God’s peace, 4:7. Mark, first, this is the peace of God. It is of God, as being its Source or Origin, or Author, or Giver, but it belongs to Him in a yet deeper sense, for Himself is Peace. This peace cannot be separated from God. God brings tranquility as He brings Himself to bear in us in fellowship. Peace: end of chaos, discordance. The peace of God brings peace with Him, and peace within. There is only peace when the mind is filled with His truth, and whose will is found in His Will, and whose love is found chiefly in Him.

11. There can be no peace apart without submission and obedience of the will. There can be no peace without fellowship. A life without Christ is a life without peace and its protection.
12. God's peace is a peace that passes *human* understanding, 4:7. See Jn 16:33.
13. God's peace garrisons (φρουρήσει) the believer's heart and thoughts.
14. Faith Rest is the key to orientation to the Person and Power of the Lord, 4:10-13.

56:12. Reversion recovery. Really getting back to a dedicated life to God and appreciation of His matchless grace. Personal love for God provides powerful motivation, Rom 12:1; 2 Cor 5:14.

56:13.

1. FR sees God's deliverances as already accomplished. David is still in the thick of trouble, but he knows God will deliver him. FR provides amazing confidence; the same confidence David had with Goliath.
2. David was only able to get to this point through the various doctrines in the previous verses—from panic to absolute confidence.
3. God has delivered our souls from eternal death, which means that He has already solved the most difficult problem---spiritual death and alienation from God.

4. God's goal in all of our deliverances is that we would return to Him. Active fellowship with God is the foundation to everything in life and the great reason He orders the events around our lives. Let us see to it that God's purpose is our resolve, and that we do not lose the good of any troubles.
5. Active fellowship
 - a. Walking with God emphasizes pure F-ship, Gen 5:24.
 - b. Walking before God emphasizes the adjustments in F-ship necessary to maintain & grow to maturity, Gen 17:1.
 - c. Walking after God emphasizes pursuing God in F-ship---growing in greater understanding of God, Dt 13:4; Php 3.
6. "May walk." Again, God's goal in all deliverances is to get us back to walking in the light of His plan. Working? David in essence makes a vow of returning to walking with God.

7. The light of the living corresponds to walking in fellowship with God. The sunshine of the super grace life is in contrast to the darkness of carnality and spiritual ignorance.
8. The light of the living refers to the spiritual life. The ones who really live are those who live in Christ. He lightens their lives.
9. The light of the living includes illumination from God as to His Being and His path for us. The believer who lives in light of God will live in the sunshine of His plan in divine guidance.
- 10. John 8:12** *Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life (ἀλλ' ἔξει τὸ φῶς τῆς ζωῆς)."*

11. There is nothing more important than your relationship with the Lord. Nothing!

- ✓ You can lose your friends and still be blessed.
- ✓ You can lose your possessions and still be rich.
- ✓ You can lose your health and still be fruitful.
- ✓ But if you forfeit your fellowship with Him, all of the friends, possessions, all of the physical strength in the world won't buy you true joy or satisfaction. You will wither at the root. Soon, the leaves on your branches will dry up and die.
- ✓ If you do not build your life on the Lord and His Word, one day your house without a foundation will fall; you tree without roots will topple with a sickening thud.

12. We were created to know and serve the Lord, to walk with Him, to love Him, to enjoy Him, and fulfill His will for our lives.

13. While no one can be disciple/learner/follower of Christ apart from Bible doctrine (Jn 8:32), it is possible to be doctrinally correct in many areas and be actively involved in ministry for Christ without Christ being your #1 priority/love, Rev. 2:2.

14. The Ephesian church hated false doctrine, worked hard, persevered through the difficulties, and in many ways were a model church rich with good works, attentive to the warnings of Paul (Acts 20:28-31), what more could the Lord want? Hard work is not enough, doctrinal purity is not enough, great pastoral oversight is not enough, perseverance in the midst of suffering is not enough, loving people is not enough.

15. When the believer forsakes (ἀφῆκες) fellowship with Christ, he begins the process of forsaking (not “losing”) his first love as he makes something else his first love. Loving Him requires being with Him, walking with Him, and coming to know Him more and more through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

16. Solution to forsaking fellowship

- ✓ Make an about-face, Rev 2:5.
- ✓ Do the first deeds: Reflect on your first deeds.
 - Love and fascination with Savior
 - Love for the Word of God
 - Quick to confess sins
 - Complete satisfaction in Christ, contra 1 Jn 2:15.
 - Excited to tell others about Christ.
 - Heightened sense of conviction regarding sin/evil.
 - Life of faith occupied with spiritual realities.
 - Fascinated with learning new doctrines.

17. Reversionism.

- ✓ No longer really love BD,
- ✓ No longer impressed with JC,
- ✓ Long periods of time without confession,
- ✓ Seeking satisfaction in KD; occupied with KD,
- ✓ No desire to tell others about JC,
- ✓ Lower standards of sanctification,
- ✓ Return to vomit and mud, 2 Pet 2:22.

18. In reversionism the believer will either move into some type of legalism (gnostic, religious, morality) or licentiousness (libertinism). In both cases there is a forsaking of God's grace. Reversionism is always about forsaking the Lord and His command to grow in God's grace.

19. Profile of legalism.

- ✓ Essence of legalism is religion without relationship
- ✓ Loveless with regard to God.
- ✓ Emphasize standards or issues not found in the Word.
- ✓ No grace orientation toward others.
- ✓ No progressive sanctification – no ongoing life-changing.
- ✓ No sense of need of mercy or grace from God.
- ✓ Stodgy.
- ✓ Often a angry muckraker looking for dirt for SR.
- ✓ Lives by list of do's and don'ts---often found in Bible.
- ✓ Life of bondage.
- ✓ Expects more out of those around him.
- ✓ All about human effort
- ✓ Rambo Christianity
- ✓ Justification and sanctification by their own works.

20. Profile of the licentious reversionistic believer.

- ✓ Return to the mud and vomit of kosmic life, 2 Pet 2:22.
- ✓ SR Gnostic . Only about *listening* to sermons/BD.
- ✓ No sense of the dangers of carnality and reversionism.
- ✓ Lives under the deceitfulness of sin and evil, Heb 3:13. The Truth:
 - Sin/evil does not satisfy.
 - Sin/evil unchecked leads to more sin and worse sins.
 - Sin/evil enslaves.
 - Sin/evil degrades and humiliates
 - Sin/evil steals spiritual joy.
 - Sin/evil destroys confidence in God.
 - Sin/evil brings pain of divine discipline.
 - Sin/evil grieves the Holy Spirit.
 - Sin/evil hurts self and others.
 - Sin/evil brings reproach on Christ and Christianity.
 - Sin/evil unchecked destroys any chance for SG life and kingdom rewards.

21. The Church Age believer has far more opportunities for much deeper fellowship with God than David or any OT believer.
22. After Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, He poured out the HS *into* believers to take up residency inside them--- prior to that the HS was only outside/alongside believers,
- ✓ **John 14:17** *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you (ὅτι παρ' ὑμῶν μένει καὶ ἐν ὑμῶν ἔσται).
23. The HS takes up residence within the life of the believer, not only thereby to unite him to Christ but to experientially work the sanctification of Christ in his life.

24. Now Christ lives in the CA believer through the indwelling Holy Spirit, Jn 14:16-20.

✓ John 14:18, I will not leave you as orphans; I come to you.

25. The inner presence of the Holy Spirit gives the believer the supernatural dynamics for the unique spiritual life of the church age.

✓ **John 14:16-17** "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.

26. It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to point to (and make a home inside of us for) Christ just as it is the ministry of Christ to reveal God/Father.

- ✓ **John 15:26** "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me,
- ✓ **John 16:14**, "He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.
- ✓ **John 14:8-9** Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father '?

27. Christ is our life and the vital union between Christ and the believer is expressed by a number of metaphors.

Colossians 3:4, . . . *Christ, who is our life* (ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν)

- **The Body of Christ** metaphor emphasizes the CA believer's dependence upon the leadership of Christ as the Head, & His sustenance.

- Col 2:19b . . . holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

- **The Temple of God** metaphor emphasizes the CA believer as being the habitation of God.
- ✓ **2 Cor 6:16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
- ✓ **1 Peter 2:5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- **The Priest** analogy emphasizes the CA believer's access to God, the service of sacrifice, and the service of witness.

- ✓ **1 Pet. 2:4** And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- ✓ **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- **The Bridegroom-Bride** analogy emphasizes Christ's love for the CA believer as manifested by loving, nourishing and cherishing her. Marriage is an exclusive devoted love. There were 3 stages of marriage in the ANE.

1st Stage, betrothal (church age),

- **2 Cor 11:2** *For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.*

2nd Stage: Rapture. The bride is taken to the Groom.

- **1 Thess 4:16-17** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (ἄρπαγησόμεθα) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with (πάντοτε σὺν) the Lord.

3rd Stage: Consummation of the marriage (Marriage Supper),

- **Revelation 19:7** "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." ⁸ And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts (τὰ δικαιώματα) of the saints. ⁹ And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

- **The outworking of the husband's love via JC**
 - ❖ **Ephesians 5:25,29** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her . . . Nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church.
 - ❖ **1 Pet 3:7**, You husbands in the same way [!], live with (συνουκοῦντες) your wives in an understanding way (κατὰ γνῶσιν) as with someone weaker (certainly not weaker mentally, spiritually, or socially).

- **The outworking of the wife's submission via JC**
 - ❖ **1 Pet 3:1, 6**, in the same way [!] . . . just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (κύριον) . . .

- **The Shepherd and His flock** metaphor emphasizes the believer's dependence upon the sacrificial love, tender care, protection, and nourishment from the Chief Shepherd.
 - ✓ **Psalm 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 - ✓ **Psalm 79:13** So we Thy people and the sheep of Thy pasture Will give thanks to Thee forever; To all generations we will tell of Thy praise.
 - ✓ **Psalm 100:3** Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.

- **John 10:9** "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.
- ✓ **John 10:11** "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

- **The Vine and the branch metaphor** emphasize the organic union of the CA believer with Christ. Abiding in Him means life and fruitfulness; apart from Him there is worthlessness/deadwood/spiritual barrenness.
- ✓ **John 15:1-5**, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He lifts up (αῖρει); and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken (λελάληκα) to you. 4 "Abide in Me (μείνατε ἐν ἐμοί), and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing." Compare Romans 7:15-25.