



Sermon – June 18, 2023
Tim Skaggs

Verses Covered This Week

John 15:18 – 24

2 Corinthians 2:14 – 16

James 1:2 – 4

1 Peter 4:12, 14

Philippians 4:8

Ephesians 5:11 – 12

Romans 12:21

As you're being seated, take your copy of God's word and turn to John 15:18 through 24. And while you're turning there, let me say happy Father's Day. Thankful for our dads, especially those who poured Jesus into us. And we just thank you and we celebrate you. I'm not preaching a Father's Day message. Uh one of my good friends asked me in the foyer when he saw I was all wired up, "You're preaching today." Oh yeah. He said, "What are you preaching on?" I said, "I'm preaching on hate." He said, "Well, that's a great message for Father's Day. Thank you." So, I, the last time I was here, I thought I'd give, I want to be fair, uh last time I was out of John 13. And remember, I talked about I'm sure you remember, yeah, uh talk about agape love leads to forgiveness. Remember that? We talked about love. And in verse 18 of John 15, the Lord begins talking to the disciples about hate. Matter of fact, if you look at some verses before that, he talks about love. Again, says, remember, there's a commandment I've given to you that you love one another. And then He begins to speak about hate. And what he's ultimately going to, we're going to see in this passage is he's saying, "Hey, the world's going to hate you. The world's going to persecute you." And that's what I mean by when he begins to focus on, here's what you're in for. Because what He's doing is John 14, He's in the upper room. Said, "I'm going to go prepare a place for you." Then he talks to them. And then at the end of 14, it says, they got up and they began, what we know is they begin to move toward the Mount of Olives. And so 15, 16, and 17, all the way there, He's talking to them and giving them this message and teaching. And at some point, even right after this idea of love, He's saying, "And something else you need to know. If you live well for me," essentially is what He's saying, "Here's what's going to come your way. Hate and persecution if you share the Gospel." Now, we think the Gospel is good news, right? We think the Gospel is great news. I mean, great news in that God made us perfect, we rebelled against Him in sin, but He didn't leave us there. He sent His only Son to come, take

on our sin, all of it, on the cross, put Him in the tomb, three days later, He comes out of the tomb conquering sin and death. And then He goes to the right hand of the Father to pray for us always. And then the idea is now that's the good news. Now, we've got a choice and John 1:12 says, all who believe that and all who receive that good news can become children of God. So, God makes a way. This is great news. He makes a way for us to have fellowship and relationship with the God who created us. And not only that, He says, "If you put your faith and trust in My Son, Jesus, I give you two things." This is great news. Best news ever. "I'll give you life, full and meaningful, on this planet, you'll have an abundant life even though it's a rough place to live, you'll have abundant life. And then I will also give you life forever in a perfect place where there's no more death, mourning, crying, or pain. Is that, does that sound good to you? Man, that's awesome. I mean, that is the best news ever for us. But listen to what the apostle Paul said. He says, the message to the cross to the saved is wisdom and power, but to the perishing, it's foolishness. Wow, not everybody thinks it's good news. Peter says, the message of the cross to the saved to the, the message across, excuse me, to those who believe is precious to those who disbelieve. It's a rock of stumbling and a rock of offense. Think about that. A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. So, what Jesus I believe is trying to tell the disciples is not everybody thinks this is great news. Not everybody thinks the Gospel is awesome and you need to know that. And so listen to what he says beginning verse 18 to the disciples as they're walking to the Mount of Olives.

¹⁸“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, I chose you out of the world, because of this, the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹But all these things they will do to you for my namesake, because they do not know the one who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³He who hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin, but now they have both seen and hated me and my Father as well.

Let's pray together.

Lord, we come to You today because we deeply need this, this message. Especially in the world we live in today, the world we find ourselves in. We desperately need to know how to react to the hate, the persecution, of this world when we stand well for You. To the sins of this culture that's all around us. Give us Your truth. Give us Your wisdom, and help us to stand so well we hear well done, this side of heaven. Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Now, why does the world hate Christianity and hate Christians? Well, first of all, let's talk about world. He's not talking about the created world. God made everything, said it was good. He's not talking about all of humanity because God so loves the world, which includes the people in the world. What he's really talking about here is the world's system. The world system will hate you. And the world system, that would be the values and philosophies of the world. Specifically, then, it does involve people in this sense, the men and women who are in rebellion against God. See, here's the thing, the world likes a pattern. The world wants you to fit into

their pattern and if you don't fit into the pattern of this world, then you will face trouble. Now, what's the pattern of the world today? Well, it's right in front of us, right? It's Pride Month. It's transgenderism. It's preferred pronouns. Matter of fact, give you one, just one example of many I could give, there's a physician in the United Kingdom right now that he's gone to court because the hospital he worked at fired him because he would not use preferred pronouns on the people he's going to attend to and take care of. He said, "Man, I love them. It's not that I don't love them. I'm going to take great care of them but I'm a Christian and I can't do that. So, they fired him. So, they fired him. So, the idea here is the world likes this pattern and if you'll fit into the pattern, you're going to be okay. But if you buck that pattern, you better watch out. So, why does the world hate Christianity and Christians. What Jesus is trying to tell them, I believe is four things. Here's the why. In verses 18 and 20, it's because they will identify with Christ. In 18, He says, they hated Me, they're going to hate you. In verse 20 it says, they persecuted me, they're going to persecute you. They're not rejecting you. They're rejecting the Jesus in you. That's important for us to understand. Now, think about this. If the world hated Jesus, who did everything absolutely perfect, then what do you think the world, how do you think the world's going to react to you? Do you do everything absolutely perfect? Do you say all the right things all the right time, at the right place, in the right way? No. We're very imperfect. So, if they hated the perfect one, they're going to hate us who are in fact imperfect. We're meant to be people who shake things up. The straw that stirs this thing called life. I'll show you what I'm talking about. 2 Corinthians chapter 2, this is really important Scripture. Listen to this. 2 Corinthians chapter 2, 14 through 16. Here's what it says.

¹⁴But thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifest through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. That that should be happening. ¹⁵For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶to the one an aroma of from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?

Here's the point. You're going to go through life and what you say and how you act, if you're going to be an ambassador for Christ, here's the truth of this passage. They're going to smell the Jesus in you. They're going to smell the Jesus on you. And it will cause them to come into a fork in the road. If we're doing it right, according to Scripture, we will live in such a way not so that we're okay and we don't ever get attacked, but we will live in such a way they must make a decision. Listen to me. They must make a decision about Jesus, for or against, based on how you're living and what you're saying. Based on the way you live and what comes out of your mouth. They come to a fork in the road. Is that you? Everybody you come in contact with, listen, that's not me. You know, it's interesting. Especially if you get to preach whatever you want to preach. You know, the pastor's out. You're the fill-in guy. This message may not do one thing for you but it's doing a lot for me. It's showing me who I am. It's showing me who I am, and it's convicting. Must come to a fork in the road. There's no middle ground. So, if people don't have a strong opinion about you one way or the other, you're not being an ambassador for Christ. We ought to make people uncomfortable for all the right reasons. They will hate you because you're so strongly identified with Jesus. They hated Him. They're going to hate you.

Now, the second thing is found in verse 19. Now, I'm going to call this define the relationship, DTR as we call it. Now, we have a relationship with this world, right? We have to. We live in

this world. So, in this relationship, I'm going to start out with here, it's not you, it's me. Now, if you've ever had to do a breakup or you're talking to someone, you know, relationship's a little rough. You know, "What's wrong?" "Well, no, it's not you. It's me." So, the first thing we see here is it's not you, it's me in this. We don't belong to this world. In verse 19, he said, you're not of this world. I chose you out of the world. Your citizenship is in heaven. The word of God says in Romans 12, do not conform to this world. Don't fit it. There it is. Don't fit into the pattern of the world. Do not conform to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you can prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. 2 Corinthians 5, you know it. If you're in Christ, you're a new creation. Old things are, have passed away. Behold, the new has come. Here's the point. We have get this in our brain. We're not just out of step with this world. Listen to me. We're not just out of step with this world. We are out of place in this world. I want you to get that. This world is not our home. And if you want to escape persecution, then compromise. Blend in. Blend in and act like you're a citizen of this world

Now, here's the next one. That was the, it's not you, it's me. You know, we do not belong to this world. Now, I'm going to flip it on its head. It's not me, it's you. In verse 21, here's what it says. All these things they will do to you for my name's sake. Here it is. It's not you, it's me. They do not know. They do not know. They, the world is spiritually ignorant and blind. They don't get it. Now obviously, it's not me, it's you. 2 Corinthians 4 says that satan has blinded the minds of the unbelievers. Ephesians 4 says that he has hardened the hearts of the unbelievers. So, here's what you've gotta do and what I've gotta do. If I've got a family member, a friend, a coworker, somebody I go to school with and I'm concerned about where they are spiritually, my prayer is not get 'em in church. That's not prayer. My prayer is, Holy Spirit, would You please open their mind and eyes and soften their hardened heart. That's why I'm not offended when the world does come against me. They don't know better. They are going the wrong way and instead of being offended and mad about that, it should make me sad because they're going the wrong direction and their eternity will be a Christless eternity unless they put their faith and trust in Jesus. But they've gotta see Him first. They've gotta hear Him first. He's in heaven at the right hand of the Father. You're His representative on this earth. We must have them come to a fork in the road by how we live and what we say.

Here's the last one. The world is not honest about their sin. That's another reason why they hate Christianity and hate Christians. They're not honest about their sins. Now, the Holy Spirit uses two things to convict us. And I believe here's what Jesus was saying when he talks about my words and my works convicts them. Look what he says in 22. First of all, he talks about his words. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin. And what that means, that translation is better, they would not have recognized their sin if I had not come and spoken to them. They would not recognize their sins. See, God's truth is, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. And that sin offends a holy God. People don't want to believe they're that bad. They don't want to believe they're sinners. But that's the first thing they've got to recognize and realize. Anytime I sit down and talk to someone about salvation, I deal with the sin issue first. Do you realize you're a sinner? It's exactly what Jesus did. Exactly what He called His disciples to do. And then He said about works in verse 24, if I had not done the works no one else did, they would not have sin and otherwise, in other words, they would not recognize, again their sin. See, before Christ came, our works don't seem so bad. Most of you don't feel like you're dirty, rotten, filthy, scum of the earth sinners, right? I certainly don't. Now,

I realized I put my faith in Jesus. There's a name change from, from sinner to saint. I get all that. But we even forget about what we were before we came to Christ, okay? And so the idea is that our works now, we compare to each other. And here's the problem, you can always find somebody worse than you, always. So, you settle in and feel pretty good about yourself. But when Jesus showed up, now we compare to Christ and our works look shabby compared to Jesus Christ. Amen? Yeah. And so, He says, my works help them see their sin as well. So, He's saying, my words and works reveal who He is and who we are. As you're, as an ambassador of Christ, that's what He wants you to do; the same thing He did. You do works and you speak words so that they, the world, will see who He is and who they are. I tell you, it's interesting. Uh I was reading this week and studying and Harry Ironside is a pastor of old and he told the story about a missionary in Africa that was at kind of a missionary compound. They would go out to these African villages each day. And he was there and he was waiting this time because one of the chief's, wife of one of the chief, was coming into the compound. And so she came in with a delegation and she was standing over by his tent and he had put a, he, for shaving he had put a mirror up in the fork of this tree. And she walked over and she saw it shining with the light. She wanted, she looked in it. She jumped back because she had never seen her face painted up, never seen herself in disfigurement and all that kind of stuff. And she said, "Who is that horrible-looking person inside that tree?" Wouldn't you like to answer that one? And he was, "Well, I, it's not in the tree. It's actually, it's a thing called a mirror and that's you." And she said, "Well, I want to buy it." And he goes, "No, you know, why would you want to buy it? You don't need to buy it." She said, "I'm going to buy it." "I'm not going to sell it to you." They went back and forth and he could tell he wasn't going to win. So, he sold it to her. He sold it to her. And she said, she took it, took it off that tree, turned her head, smashed it into tons of pieces, many pieces, smashed it into pieces. And she said, "That ugly face will never look at me again." Wow. Our works and our words are meant to be a reflection of who God is and who people are. Now, here's the thing. How can we be encouraged when we're hated? I just don't want to leave you there that, "Hey, guess what? Have a great week. The world's going to hate you and persecute you. You know, let's pray." How can we be encouraged? Well, WWJD, What Would Jesus Do? When Jesus is baptized, it's the point where we really, we always knew it, and He always was, He's fully God, He's fully man. But He comes up out of the baptismal waters and in His humanity, He lives and fulfills His calling two ways. Using the Holy Spirit to guide Him and God's word to encourage Him and guide Him. Now, watch what happens. He comes out of baptismal water. If you go read John 4, it says, and immediately the Spirit led Him into the wilderness. So, He's following the lead of the Holy Spirit. That's what you can do as well. And then, when He's with the enemy in the wilderness, He's tempted, I think, more than three times, but we have three occasions where He's tempted. And every time what does He use to combat that temptation? The word of God. So, we want to, when we need to be encouraged when hated, we want to lean into the word and let me give you a word. James chapter 1, verses 2 through 4. This is just one of many I could point out. When you're being attacked, go to James 1. Here's what it says.

²Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, (wow, joy and trials)

³knowing that the testing (and here's why) the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴And let endurance have *its* perfect result, (here it is) so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

In your heart you go, I want to be mature. I want to be a mature Christian so I can be used for God and His glory. Then get ready because you just invited difficulty into your life. But that's okay because I'm going to go to the word and I'm going to go, "I know what God's going to do. He's going to use this." He doesn't love it. I don't love it. But He's going to use it to form me and fashion into me someone who looks more and more like Jesus every day. And then, you want to rely on the comfort of the Holy Spirit just like Jesus did. In Philippians 3:10, Paul says this, I want to know Him. Here it is again. I want to I want to be like Him. I want to really know Him. I want to know the power of His resurrection. I get that. Who doesn't want power? But then He says something really interesting. I want to know, is this your prayer? Is this your heart? He says, I want to know the fellowship of His suffering. Wow. You going to pray that part? What he's saying, did Paul suffer? Absolutely. But in that deep suffering, here's the deal. He knew the Koinonia of the Holy Spirit who came to comfort Him. So, instead of us run from persecution, you really want to know the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, then you be okay. You're going to be okay when the world comes against you as you stand well for Christ.

Now, the point is, here's how we ought to, here's what our life ought to be like. Go to 1 Peter chapter 4, verse 12. Now, we're going to throw 14 in there just for good measure. Look what it says. Peter to the church is saying this,

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you (they were standing so well for Christ they were being persecuted unbelievably) which comes upon you for your testing (there's that testing again), as though some strange thing were happening to you;

¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God (there's the Holy Spirit and God again) rests upon you.

He's saying, "Friends, you should expect persecution. If you don't have persecution, something's wrong." Now, think about that. Does that apply to today? Here's what I'm saying. If you're popular and you're comfortable, now think about this, now, this is where I'm preaching to me. I think it's most of us in here. I think it's mostly American Christianity. Are you popular? Which means you have friends? Absolutely. Are you comfortable? Or do you feel the pressure from this world? I think what he's saying to them is this, if you're popular and comfortable, you're doing something wrong. Either you're hanging around the wrong people all the time. Holy huddle, Christians, okay? Or not sharing the boldness of the Gospel. One of those two things will be happening. Now, what's the best way, Tim, to respond to hatred? Be salt and light. In Matthew 5:13 and 14, very quickly, I'm going to go quickly. You're the salt of the earth but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It's no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are also verse 14, the light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light shine before men in such a way they see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Here's the way we do it. You can picket if you want to. You can boycott if you want to. You can get on social media and rant all day long. It's not what God wants you to do in responding to the persecution and the hatred of the world and the cultural sins around us. What He called us to do in His most famous sermon is, you be salt. Salt makes people thirsty. You work and live and act in such a way that they see there's something different about your life and it makes them thirsty for what you have. And in light in a dark place, when you shine a light, it it, that shows truth. That speaks a word. So again, here's this works and word. Again, the salt and light, the works that you do, and the words

that you say in love make a huge difference. I want you to look, we're going to watch a video. It's longer than I want it to be but I think it's good. I hope it, it's an old one, so I hope it looks good. But Penn and Teller, if you know them, they're they're magicians. Uh, and I think they're probably still in Vegas. Penn is the big guy with long black hair, remember? Teller's the one that doesn't ever talk, okay? For you young people that don't have any idea who these people are, okay? But after a show, a Christian came up to Penn to be salt and light and you watch what happen.

I want to talk to you about this. Uh I can open the show and at the end of the show, as I've mentioned before, we go out and we we talk to folks and you know, sign an occasional autograph and shake hands and so on. And there was one guy waiting over to the side in the what I call the hover position after I was all done, big guy. Probably about my age. And he walked over to me and he said, "I was here last night at the show. And I saw the show and I liked it. I wanted to," He was very complimentary about my use of language and complimentary about, you know, honesty and stuff. And then he said, "I brought this for you." And he handed me a Gideon pocket edition. I thought it said from the New Testament but I also thought it was Psalms and the New Testament, right? Psalms from the just part of the New Testament. Little book about this big, this thick, you know. He said, "I wrote on the front of it and I wanted you to have this. I'm kind of proselytizing." I mean, he said, "I'm a businessman. I'm I'm sane. I'm not crazy." But he looked at me right in the eye and did all of this. And it was really wonderful. I believe he knew that I was an atheist. He was really kind and nice and sane and looked me in the eyes and talked to me and then gave me this Bible. And I've always said, you know, that I, I don't respect people who don't proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe that there's a heaven and hell, and people could be going to hell, or not getting eternal life, or whatever. And you think that, "Well, it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward." And atheists who think that people shouldn't proselytize, just leave me alone, keep your religion to yourself. Uh how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? I mean, if I believed beyond a shadow of a doubt that a truck was coming at you and you didn't believe it, that truck was bearing down on you. There's a certain point where I tackle you and this is more important than that. And I've always thought that and I've written about that. I've thought of it conceptually. This guy was a really good guy. He was polite and honest and sane and he cared enough about me to proselytize and give me a Bible which had written in it a little note to me. Uh not very personal but just you know, liked the show and so on. And then like five phone numbers for him and an Email address if I wanted to get in touch. Now, I know there's no God and one polite person living his life right doesn't change that But I'll tell you, he was a very, very, very good man and that's really important. And with that kind of goodness, it's okay to have that deep of a disagreement. I still think that religion does a lot of bad stuff, but man, that was a good man who gave me that book. That's all I wanted to say.

Wow. Is that incredible? Isn't that awesome? Here's my point. What do we do many times? We get on social media and we go crazy. We rant. We quote Scripture. This kind of stuff. But if you're like me and you would like the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence that was at the Dodgers, you'd like them to repent? Don't ever forget this verse. Listen to this, the kindness of God leads to repentance. You want people to repent in your world, in your sphere, you be like God, You be kind. You be kind. Be salt and light.

Now, this is normally where I close the video and we're done. We're not. Now, the reason is because I had a cute little way to close it and my daughter did not know I was preaching this message. She sent me a podcast and I'm going to go quickly. A podcast. It's about a 12-minute, I'm not going to be that long, of a well-known pastor where someone asked him this question, how do we as Christians deal with cultural sins? And I've been wrestling with that myself. So, I listened to it and I want to give credit where credits due. Most of these points are not mine. I'll make a few comments about them. But the idea is, how do we respond not just to the hatred of the world but to cultural sins? It's worth taking a few minutes. Listen, our tendency, if we're not careful, is to get so emotional, we go off with angry rants. Sins of our culture today are more outlandish and in your face in American than ever, would you agree? Yeah. It's it's more outlandish and it's in your face more than ever. Well, he said, go to Philippians 3 where Paul addresses culture as, and that's in his day. We think it's worse today but here's what here's how he describes culture. They're enemies of the cross. Their end is destruction. Their God is their appetite. Some translations say, their God is their belly. Their glory is their shame. They set their minds on earthly things. That about describes the sins of our culture. But our main response, instead of over-emotional about all that, is a few verses later in chapter 4, verse 8 of Philippians and here's what he reminds the the listeners to go to. Chapter 4, verse 8,

⁸whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of commendable, whatever is worthy of praise, think on these things.

The idea is we're not to be emotionally consumed all the time about the latest drag queen that struts in front of a four year old. We can groan about that, we can be sad about it. But if it consumes us, we've lost our bearings. We've lost our way and we need to go back to Christ. Here it is. When you're in your little holy huddle of Christians, like I am every week, you need to make sure, listen to this, that you talk more about the majesty of Christ than you do the misery of this world. That's what got me. Alright. We don't want to linger and and wallow in that. We want to give the answer to that. We need to make sure we're speaking more at our lunches, and I'm guilty of not doing this, more about the majesty of Christ than the misery of the world. But we just saw the woe is me, we don't even mention Jesus. Think on these things. Now, how does Paul deal with sins outside the church? This is a crazy verse that I'll try to make some sense of, alright? It's found and it's on the screen. Ephesians 5:11 and 12. It really seems to be a contradiction. Amazing verse because you're going, what? Look at this.

¹¹Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

¹²for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

Do you see the contradiction here? Expose them but don't even speak about them. That, isn't that wild? Now, what's he talking about there? Because for those of you that just love to get on social media and rip everything. You go, Bible says we're supposed to expose them. Don't forget the next verse. Don't even speak about those things. What's he talking about here? Well, the person in this podcast said this, he believes that it's shameful to linger over, over these things with excessive attention. It's shameful to linger over these things with excessive attention. In a way, we find some pleasure talking about the things we hate, if we're not careful. Makes us feel better. Expose but don't gloat. Expose but don't linger. Expose but weep. Expose but pray. Here's a good test. If you find yourself talking more about the sins of the world than the Savior

of the world, something's wrong in your spirit. Now, again, many of you, you may say, this isn't for me. Listen, this is for me. Cuz I find myself talking more about the sins of the world than the Savior of the world in these conversations. And that is not what God's will is for us.

Three more quick observations. How to deal with sin outside the church. Number one, deal with those sins in a serious and biblical way. If we just complain, my daddy, West Texan, he taught me, would be belly ache. If we just belly ache about the sins of our culture all the time and that's all we do. We're no better than conservative unbelievers. Listen to me. There are a lot of people that gripe about this world because they're conservative; but they're not Christians. They're conservative people. But they're not Christians. If all we do complain, and belly ache were on par with conservative unbelievers. We need to do a deep dive biblical analysis to get the root of how this sin relates to God and Christ and what we need to do about it. Number two, and I love this. Keep in mind, 1 Corinthians 5:12. You need to keep this in mind, people, church. What have I do to do? Paul is saying there was a sin in the church and he said, you need to deal with that sin in the church, inside the church, and here's what he says in 1 Corinthians 5:12. What have I to do with judging outsiders? Meaning, those outside the church. Do you not judge those within the church? Those who are outside, God judges. Now, I was lead pastor for 14 years and counseled with a lot of people and counsel a lot of people here. And I love the part where someone comes in, they've got some issue in their life, and they say, "You know, I know I've got, you know, I'm not perfect but." And then, they ultimately, they they, you know, we can quote John 3:16 but we can also quote this verse. Judge not, lest ye be judged. Everybody can quote that one too. Because as soon as another Christian starts trying to to sharpen you and and use God's word to bring you under conviction. Sometimes, you go, who are you to judge me? You don't have a right to judge me. Take em to 1 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 12. Paul says, we don't judge those outside the church, listen to this, we judge those inside. Listen, please please hear this. I need you to judge me. World's not going to judge me. I need you to catch me if I'm going down the wrong path. If you love me, brothers and sisters, and you see me going the wrong direction, you're going to tap me on the shoulder and go, hey, let's talk. We judge those within the church. Don't ever pull that, you don't have a right to judge me when another Christian's talking to you about something in your life. Don't pull that, it's not biblical. But also don't get on Facebook and just rip and judge the world. God judges the world, those that are outside. I won't ever forget that. Third thing is this, this is good too. Aim at the fullest experience possible of Romans 12:21. Here's what it says.

²¹Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

That's what that guy did when he talked to Penn. He's a good man. Do you think he was under conviction a little bit? Could you see it in his face? Kindness leads to repentance. Overcome evil with good. Now, the point is what we know and what we need to share with the world would be that the favor of the world cannot compare to the favor of Jesus. That's what, that's our message. The applause of this world cannot compare to the applause of Jesus. And then the fellowship with the world cannot compare with the fellowship of Jesus. You want to make an impact? You want to make sure want to impact, you want to make sure of this, that you talk more about the majesty of Christ than you do about the miseries of this world. And I promise you, that will not only make an impact in your spirit and in your heart, I believe it will make an impact in the world around you that you have an opportunity to impact. Talk more the majesty of Christ, then the misery of this world.

Let's pray.

Father, we love You. We need You. Wanna thank You for Your truth. It's good. You got me, Holy Spirit, this week. And I need this and help me to obey it. Father, there are people here today, certainly, they bring in to this worship center some difficult things. I pray and sometimes the worlds, the worlds wrecked them. I pray they would turn their focus from the world and they put their focus on You. Jesus, You are majestic. You are beautiful. You are awesome and I pray we'll not only believe it in our heart, we'll share it with this world. Do Your work as only You can and we love You. In Christ's name. Amen.