

THE Rock COMMUNITY CHURCH

Titus 1:10-16

"Clarity, Direction, & Encouragement"

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21:20

Pastor Drew is still on vacation, and we are here, and we're going to start today with something a little different. I have a question. And here's my question. By the way, I don't know how that ever got started. It just was one of those things starting with a question. But here's the question.

21:42

Does your life ever get complicated? Never overloaded, overwhelming? Has that ever happened to you in your life? If it does, then you're going to really be able to identify with Titus in our passage today. Because Titus has been called by God to the island of Crete.

22:06

Not to just pastor a nice little church there. No. Titus's assignment is to deal with trouble and troublemakers in all the churches over all the island. Talk about an overwhelming assignment. Titus is going to need help. Where is Titus going to find the help he needs? Same place you and I can always find the help we need. And that's in God's word.

22:35

When we turn to the word of God, when we turn to the truth of God. His truth always brings clarity. It always brings direction and encouragement to whatever we're facing. When life gets hard, when problems, challenges, complications rise up to defeat us.

22:57

One of my favorite verses in the entire Bible is also one of the greatest promises in the whole world. May I share it with you? Psalm 121, verses one to two. I lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

23:24

Wow. Whenever you and I need help, whenever you and I need help with anything, and when don't we need help? Our Helper, our rescuer, is none other than the God of the universe. Let's think about that as we pray to the God of the universe.

23:48

Will you pray with me, please? Almighty God, what a privilege it is to be in your family with this wonderful church family. And Lord, the things we face sometimes in our life can look really complicated. Lots of moving parts.

24:07

Sometimes things look impossible to us. But nothing is impossible for you. And because nothing is impossible for you, nothing is really ever impossible for us. When we turn to you and we turn to your words of clarity, direction, and encouragement, please give us ears to hear and hearts to receive your truth into our lives. We pray, in Jesus name. Amen.

24:32

Our passage is Titus, chapter one, verses ten to 16. We're going to finish chapter one, but we're going to find Titus right where we left him last week. Titus is on the island of Crete. Paul has put Titus in charge of cleaning up a big problem, not just in one church, but in the many churches that are spread across an entire island that is five times bigger than Oahu.

24:58

It's a big place. There are a lot of corrupt leaders in these churches that are not teaching the truth of God. They are teaching their own flawed ideas, and they are not building unity in Christ. They are creating confusion and division. It's Titus's job to clean all this up, to get rid of the corrupt leaders and replace them with godly leaders.

25:21

Let me ask you this. How would you like to be given that assignment? How would you like that to be your ministry? Would you be excited? Oh, boy. Or would you be looking for that first boat off the island? Titus' situation reminds me of a quote from Chuck Swindoll that I've shared with you before, but it's so good. Let me share it again.

25:43

Pastor Charles Swindoll said, we are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations. Isn't that true? Titus' situation certainly looks impossible, doesn't it? How can Titus? How can just one guy, one man, restore order in all those churches spread along the massive coastline of the island and up into the rugged mountains?

26:11

How can one person do that? This job may be too much for one person, but it's not too much for the one true God. This. If you're looking for great news today, here it comes. This is the reality for Titus, and this is the reality for you and me. Every day of our lives as children of God, we get to look at our problems.

26:36

We get to look at our challenges very differently than the world does. Great opportunities do come disguised as problems and complications and impossible situations, because God is always working in our lives for our good and his glory. And whatever looks impossible to us is never impossible for God, no matter what it looks like to us. Jesus said, with God, all things, all things, all things are possible.

27:10

Whatever Titus faces on Crete, whatever you and I face in Southern California or wherever we go, we can always trust that God is in complete control. And whatever is under God's control is never out of control, no matter how it looks to us. So let's think about this.

27:33

Titus is right where God wants him to be, and Titus is doing the best thing he can possibly do. What's he doing? Titus is reading the word of God through the pen of Paul so that Titus can find direction, he can find purpose, and he can find the strength he needs.

27:53

It just so happens, years ago, I wrote a note on a posted note, and it's on my desk. I look at it every day, many times every day, and the note says, you are right where God wants you. Rest in that. You are right where God wants you. Rest in that. Every time I look at that note. For years, I've looked at that note, and every time blesses my heart and just calms my nerves, gives me such encouragement and hope.

28:22

So Titus needs help. So that's why he's turning to God's word of truth. Because God's word of truth really is the light and direction we need in this very dark and very confusing, complicated world. In our passage last week, Paul instructed Titus to go to every town, every home church on the island and find and train qualified men to be new leaders of the church, new elders and pastors.

28:47

And these men must be above reproach. Not arrogant or quick tempered or drunkards or greedy. They must be hospitable, self controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. Last week, we ended with quite a statement from Paul. Let's remind ourselves. Titus, chapter one, verse nine. Let's read this for context, and we'll read on.

29:07

Paul wrote, he, the elder or pastor. Must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught. So that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also be able to refute those who contradict it. The purpose of every church leader on the island of Crete and every church leader today. Is to do this, and that is to proclaim the truth of God. And defend that truth against anyone that tries to contradict what God has said.

29:34

So with verse nine now fresh in our mind, Paul explains why that is so necessary. Let's read on. Verse ten through 16, Paul writes, for or because there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.

29:55

One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons. This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth to the pure. All things are pure. But to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure.

30:17

But both their minds and their consciences are defiled. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. Okay. Good morning. A lot of strong words in that passage, aren't there? Well, now, let's dive in.

30:41

Let's look a little more closely at Titus's great opportunity that has come disguised as an impossible situation. Let's look at verse ten again. For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. The word many in the Greek means many.

31:05

There are a lot, a lot of false teachers and corrupt leaders in those churches of Crete. Paul describes them as insubordinate. Well, the greek word for insubordinate means a person that will not. Will not submit to the authority over him or her, even when that authority comes from God. Here's something we need to understand. This is a fact of life, whether someone accepts it or not. Okay. Fact of life. God is in total control.

31:35

His power is total and universal. God rules over the world he created, and God rules over the church he purchased with the blood of Christ. In Titus's day, just like in our day, there are many people that just refuse to submit to God's authority over them. Paul says these false teachers are also empty talkers and deceivers.

32:02

Empty talkers have a lot to say, but their words are not full of truth. Their words are empty of truth. They speak to deceive. They speak to lead people away from the truth of God. Paul says the main culprits come from that group known as the circumcision party.

32:26

That doesn't particularly sound like a fun group, does it? The circumcision party? Well, they're not a whole lot of fun. These are people that mix Judaism, legalism, and Christianity. They kind of put it in a blender, and they come out with this corrupt medley. And they primarily teach that faith in Jesus alone is not enough for salvation. No, they say, Jesus is not enough. You must men, you must also be circumcised.

32:59

And the people of Crete must also avoid certain foods, must obey the law of Moses, must follow Jewish religious traditions, and do all these things to prove yourself worthy of salvation. This teaching, like every kind of false teaching, elevates human thinking over the command and truth of God. We could turn to a lot of verses.

33:25

We could spend a lot of time this morning turning to many verses that address this. But let's look at just one, one verse that perfectly summarizes the fact that salvation comes only through faith in Jesus. Galatians, chapter two, verse 16. Paul writes, we know that a person is not justified by works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ.

33:46

So we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law, no one, no one will be justified. The word justified means being declared absolutely righteous in the eyes of God. That's what it means to be justified. Trusting in Jesus restores the favor that we lost due to our sin.

34:15

And our justification is more. This is great. This is more than just an acquittal. Our justification is full, loving acceptance by God, now and forever through trusting in Christ. That's what we have in Christ. The purpose of the law of Moses that we read in the Old Testament is to show us God's absolute standard of perfection that no one other than Jesus could ever possibly live up to.

34:47

The law was given to prove and even to itemize for us the depth of our sin so that we can see we are desperate, in need of a savior who is Christ the Lord. Salvation cannot, cannot be earned by anything we do to try to be good enough for God. Salvation cannot be earned.

35:08

It can only be received as a free gift based on the work that Jesus did for us on the cross. We'll turn to one verse, Romans 6:23. Many of us probably know this verse, for the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

35:30

The false teachers on the island of Crete were contradicting this truth. They were contradicting the word of God. So how should Titus respond? Let's read verse eleven.

Paul's very clear. He says they, the false teachers, must be silenced since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain that which they ought not to teach.

35:54

The word silence in the Greek literally means their mouths must be stopped. Their mouths must be stopped. False teachers must not be allowed to keep spewing their nonsense, their heresy, their untruth in Jesus' church. Their mouth must be stopped.

36:10

The Lord's church is the place to proclaim the truth of God and nothing but the truth of God. That's why at RockCC we teach the word of God line upon line. Paul notes that the false teachers are upsetting whole families. It's very personal for Paul.

36:29

Paul came to Crete on his fourth ministry missionary journey. And he came and he preached the gospel to these people. And many people came to trust in Christ. But after Paul left, these corrupt leaders, these false teachers, came creeping into the home churches to contradict the truth that Paul had taught. And they came and they caused confusion, they caused division, and they created painful turmoil in the family of God.

36:56

And they did this for shameful gain. They were in it for the money and probably to be seen as some sort of respected spiritual leader in the community. Let's read on verse twelve. Paul writes this very kind note. One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.

37:19

This quote came from an unnamed cretan who was probably the greek prophet and poet Epimenides. Epimenides was a highly esteemed native of Crete, and Epimenides actually lived about 500 years before Paul was born. So Epimenides did declare that his

own, his very own island people were basically the dregs of greek society. He said, cretans are always liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons.

37:49

We can imagine that Epimenides probably was never asked to write the travel brochures to Crete from the chamber of commerce. Come to Crete, come meet the lazy gluttons. No, he probably didn't. But in ancient times, the Greeks had a saying, if they wanted to accuse someone of lying, they would say, that person is playing the Cretan.

38:10

And in ancient times, the Cretans were actually known in that world for being savage, lazy, and sensual. Let's read on what Paul says about this. Verses 13 to 14. Paul says this testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be found in the faith, not devoting themselves to jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.

38:34

Something really important for us to understand. Okay? When Paul says this testimony is true, he is speaking that it is true of the false teachers, not of all the wonderful people on the island of Crete. Remember, Paul already told Titus to go find and train Cretans who were above reproach, holy, and disciplined.

38:55

So Paul certainly acknowledges how the Lord has been working in the lives of these people. And there are good, faithful people that God is raising up to actually be pastors, godly pastors on the island. So Paul tells Titus to rebuke the false teachers sharply. We know there are places in God's word where we are told if we need to confront someone of their sin, we are told to do it just so gently. Be gentle, be patient.

39:23

But then there are other passages like this one where God says, no, this is not the time for gentleness and patience. This is the time for a sharp, strong rebuke. What is the

purpose of a sharp rebuke? Paul tells us rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.

39:41

The purpose of the sharp rebuke is so the false teachers and their followers might see their sin, might snap out of their evil ways and turn around and devote themselves to the truth of God instead of to myths and untruths. A sharp rebuke does not guarantee that that person's going to hear and respond by repenting.

40:02

But the goal of a rebuke, of any rebuke, especially a sharp rebuke, the goal is always for repentance to take place. A sharp rebuke must not be done out of malice or just because we're just frustrated. We're on our last nerve, and we just got to let this person have it.

40:22

No, the motive of a sharp rebuke is love. It's love. A sharp rebuke can sometimes stop someone from falling deep into sin. Paul says rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith. To be sound in the faith is the goal for every single one of us. For every believer in Christ. It means to be steadfast, firm, and unwavering in our faith in Christ.

40:51

So here's a question. What exactly is a sharp rebuke. Would you like to hear some examples if you came to church today hoping to hear a few sharp rebukes? I didn't want to disappoint you, so let's read two. I'm going to read one from Jesus and one from Paul. Let me start with Jesus.

41:10

Everywhere Jesus went during his earthly ministry. He was hounded by the corrupt religious leaders. Known as the Pharisees and scribes. And one time, the Pharisees and

scribes got really, really upset. Because they saw Jesus' disciples eating bread before they washed their hands.

41:28

The hand washing had nothing to do with hygiene. It had nothing to do with soap and water. It was a ceremonial rinsing ceremony went like this. Someone had to pour water out of a jar. While the person had to have both hands up. With their fingers pointed up. And the water had to drip off at the wrists, not the elbows.

41:45

Not exactly sure how to do that, but that's how that would happen. Once you finish step one. Step two is you turn your hands over. The person pours more water out of the jar. So the water runs down your fingers. Then after you've successfully done those two steps, step three is you rub your hands not with a towel, not with your fingers, but with the fist of your other hand. Okay?

42:05

This ceremony was part of what was called the tradition of the elders. The Pharisees actually wrote a book. They had their own book full of traditions of the elders. That they and their followers treasured more than they treasured the words of God. So let's read Jesus's sharp rebuke.

42:22

In Mark, chapter seven, verse five to eight. Jesus said, well, first the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders. But eat with defiled hands? And Jesus said to them, well, did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites. Sounds like a sharp rebuke, doesn't it?

42:43

Well, did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites. As it is written, this people honors me with their lips. But their heart is far from me. In vain do they worship me. Teaching as

doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God. And hold to the tradition of men.

43:00

Jesus sharply rebuked these religious leaders for loving their own commands. More than they love the commands of God. Jesus rightly said, these false teachers had God on their lips. But they did not have God in their heart. Let's look at Paul for a sharp rebuke. He's always good for a sharp rebuke. There were believers in Galatia. That would be central Turkey today.

43:26

And these believers were also being misled by false teachers, much like what was going on in Crete. And Paul heard that some of these Galatian believers were actually turning away from the teaching of Jesus to follow the teaching of these legalists. And so Paul wrote a letter, and the letter had a sharp rebuke in it.

43:48

Let's look at Galatians, three verses, one to three. Paul writes, o foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this. Did you receive the spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish?

44:11

Having begun by the spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Paul was clearly in shock when he wrote this. That's why he addresses them as old, foolish Galatians. Did you note the exclamation point? That's Paul's. This exclamation point. Paul put there just to reveal the depth or emphasize the depth of his dismay.

44:35

The word foolish does not refer to the Galatians' lack of intelligence, but to their lack of obedience to the truth of God. They were taught. Paul asked, who has bewitched you?

In other words, are you guys in a trance or something? What's going on? Paul reminds the Galatians how he showed them. He preached Christ.

44:58

He showed them how Jesus' death on the cross paid the full price of their sins once and for all. And they heard that truth, and they believed that truth, and they gave their hearts to Jesus, and they received the Holy Spirit. So Paul says he's going to use their own salvation. Here is his proof. He says, let me ask you this. Did you receive the spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

45:19

Did you receive the Holy Spirit doing a bunch of legalistic stuff, or did you do it when you simply believed with simple faith? Obviously, they received the spirit the moment they put their faith in Jesus for their salvation. Paul asks, are you so foolish? This means, are you that foolish?

45:41

Having begun by the spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? The Galatians needed this sharp rebuke from their mentor Paul, because they were deceived into thinking that their spiritual growth now depended on them going back and obeying a bunch of self-righteous rules and traditions instead of just continuing to grow in the faith they had in Christ.

46:07

The word of God is pointing something out to us. I hope we all see we are all sinners, every single one of us. Every one of us, we're all sinners. We all make mistakes. But that's why we need each other. And sometimes we need each other for a little gentle course correction. And sometimes we need each other for a sharp course correction.

46:32

Paul has some final sharp words for the corrupt leaders in Crete. Let's look at the last two verses. Verses 15 to 16. Paul writes, to the pure, all things are pure. But to the

defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure. But both their minds and their consciences are defiled. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works.

46:54

They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. Paul says, first off, to the pure, all things are pure. This is really good news. This means those of us who trust in Jesus alone for our salvation, we are free. We are free to enjoy absolutely everything that God created in the way that he intended it to be enjoyed.

47:19

When Paul says all things are pure, he obviously does not mean that sinful things like drug abuse or drunkenness or sensuality are pure. But Paul says, to the defiled, to those who are unbelieving, nothing is pure, because both their mind and their conscience is defiled. Paul is talking about these legalistic false teachers who trust in their own self-righteousness.

47:41

These false teachers are going around pointing to people, don't eat that. Gotta rinse your hands a certain way or that's going to be defiled. And all the while, Paul is pointing out, no, it's not the food, it's not the hands. It's their own mind. It's their own unbelief. It's their own consciences that are defiled. Why are they defiled? How are they defiled?

48:00

They look at the good things that God has given us to enjoy, and they see them as evil things to avoid. In Matthew Henry's commentary, he said this, I'd like to share it with you because it's just better than I could ever say it. He said, they suck poison out of that from which others draw sweetness.

48:20

Isn't that great? What a picture of the trap of legalism. Legalism is a system of rules and regulations for achieving salvation, achieving spiritual growth through self-righteousness.

Legalism rejects the freedom and joy that we all have that comes through faith in Jesus alone for our salvation.

48:43

So let me ask you this. Are you trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation? If you are. If you are, you know what? You can really go through life every day with a grin on your face. You really and truly can because you are free to enjoy everything God blesses you with every day of your life. And when your life is over on this planet, guess what? You have the greatest retirement plan in the universe.

49:16

Let's look at verse 16 one more time. They profess, these false teachers profess to know God, but they deny him with their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. Paul is saying what Jesus said to the Pharisees and scribes. Remember, Jesus said, this people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

49:39

Paul puts it like this. They profess, they say they know God, but they deny him by their works, by their lies, deny what they say is true. False teachers say they are following Jesus, but it's all talk. It's not real. False teachers, deceivers, they love to come to church. They can come and join a church. They can quote scripture.

50:00

They could probably know some Greek. They probably know some Hebrew. They probably have commentaries. They probably have all kinds of Bible Translations and books they can talk to you about. They use christian vocabulary in the right way. But if we look at how they really live their lives, we will see. Paul warns us they are not following the Lord.

50:20

They are following after ways of the world. Paul says false teachers and deceivers are detestable, disobedient and unfit for any good work. Let's look at these last three

descriptions. The word Detestable means despicable and repulsive. Paul is using this in this context to actually say, you don't really even want to look at the false teachers because they will make you nauseated by the way, they use the word of God for personal gain.

50:49

That'll make you nauseated. It's detestable. They are disobedient. The greek word for disobedient means rebellious and unbelieving. And it also carries the meaning that in some cases, their unbelieving is they are also unpersuadable. Some people can lie and deceive for so long, their hearts are hard and they can no longer receive the truth of God.

51:15

And then finally, Paul says they're unfit for any good work. The Greek word that he used for unfit is the word the ancient Greeks used to describe a worthless counterfeit coin or a stone that has such a bad flaw in it, it must be rejected by the builders because it's not good for anything.

51:36

Okay, a lot of strong words, a lot of strong words in our passage today. But if we're paying attention, there's also a lot of clarity. There's a lot of wonderful direction and encouragement for you and I to apply in our lives. Like what? Like this. Let me just share a few highlights that we can take home with us. Our passage shows us, first of all, how God takes the leadership and the purpose of his church very seriously. And so do we.

52:05

At RockCC, Jesus is the head of our church. We follow him. And because this is Jesus' church, the RockCC must be a house of prayer. It must be a house of worship. And it must be a house where the word of God is taught so that all of us can be steadfast, firm and unwavering in our faith in Jesus.

52:26

You probably have heard our mission statement. Pastor Drew quoted it last week. But I'll tell you again, this is the whole reason why RockCC exists. We exist to make disciples who know Jesus, follow Jesus, serve Jesus, and obey Jesus. That is our purpose as a church. Our passage also showed us something amazing.

52:49

We see that in Titus's life and in our life, God is always in complete control. Even when things look out of control to us, God is always in control. Crete. Let's think about this. Crete must have had a really rough and rowdy population. But wherever God's word is taught, lives are changed. Lives are transformed.

53:12

So Titus was left on the island of Crete to put things in order by removing all the corrupt leaders and installing new godly leaders. Where was Titus going to find the new godly leaders? On the island of Crete. This means before Titus even got this assignment, God had already been at work in the lives of men in those churches, training them up, raising them up, equipping them, preparing them for them to walk into pastoral ministry.

53:38

And God was going to lead Titus to those men. So we see here for you and for me, this absolutely wonderful principle that God never calls us to a job without giving us everything we need to do that job. Whatever you're called to do in your life, no matter how complicated it looks, no matter how hard the ministry may get or relationships get, or any of those things, God never calls you to a job that he doesn't also prepare for you to have everything you need to do that job.

54:09

So encouraging our passage also shows us something about God's plan. God's plan is always perfect. But sometimes, you may have noticed, God's plan is also mysterious. Right? Sometimes the Lord leads us into situations that are unexpected. We don't want them.

54:29

They're overwhelming, they're confusing, they're hard, they're difficult, they're painful, and they're scary. When that happens, we need to remember God has us right where he wants us for our good and his glory, and we can rest in that reality. And we really and truly can trust the Lord no matter what.

55:01

Our passage also shows us that as believers in Christ, we really get to look at our challenges and problems much, much differently than those who do not know Christ. We really do. Changes and challenges can fill us with fear sometimes. But you know what? You know what we can do? Instead of giving in to fear, you know what we get to do as believers in Christ?

55:22

We get to use fear like the alarm we set on our phones to remind us that we have something important to do, right? We set a reminder. We set an alarm to remind us we got to get up. There's something we got to do. We get to do that with our problems. When our fear goes off, that is our alarm to remind us we have something to do. What do we have to do? We need to take our fear to God right away.

55:42

We need to go to God in prayer. We need to open his word. We got to remember his word, and we got to claim his word for the power and strength and purpose that he gives us. We get to do that. What a difference. I don't know about you, but my life is hard. Yours is probably simple. Thank God for his truth.

56:06

Thank God that he is in control of it all. Finally, our passage shows us, as believers in Jesus, what a way to end. We are free to enjoy everything God created for us in this world. I wrote down a few things just to share with you. God created delicious things for us to eat. It's my favorite. He created amazing things to see, beautiful things to hear, wonderful things to feel, incredible people to know and exciting things to learn and so much more.

56:43

In Christ, we get to enjoy all those things. We get to grin every day of our lives. So I opened with a question. I'll do something a lot different. I thought I'd end with a question. I'm not going to do this every time. I don't need another pattern I have to follow. Here's my question. Do you ever look back on your life and long for happier days or better days? Or maybe if you're a little older, do you ever look back and wish for a younger body?

57:13

Yeah, me neither. No. Here's the thing. Our brothers and sisters, we don't need to look back. In Christ, we can just keep looking forward. Because here's the truth. Our best day on earth, our best day can't even compare to the life that we have waiting for us with our lord and our savior forever. Hallelujah and amen.

57:39

Today we saw how Titus had an island full of problems. But you know what? God is so much bigger than any island. And God is so much bigger than any problem that dares to get in our way. So, for homework, for homework this week, let's do this. Let's all try to keep our eyes open this coming week for those great opportunities that are going to come disguised as difficult or impossible situations.

58:07

Let's remember this week, whatever looks impossible to us is not impossible for God. And let's remember where our help comes from when we cry out for help. Our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. Let's pray together.

58:25

Father. Oh, my goodness gracious. Thank you. Thank you for your clarity, your direction, your encouragement in this passage today and in every passage we read, every time we turn to you for help. Father, I know in a family this size, there are some of us here today that are hurting.

58:43

Please touch troubled hearts and minds or people that are dealing, struggling with things in their life. Maybe a work problem, maybe a relationship or a health issue. Anything that just seems to be too much right now. Just too complicated, too impossible, too gift difficult. Please touch their lives.

59:02

Help us. Help them. Help all of us see, nothing is too difficult for you, Lord. Nothing is out of control, because you are always in control. And we can trust you no matter what.

59:12

Thank you so much for your word. Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for our peace and salvation and joy we have through Jesus every minute of every day in this gift of life. And it's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.