

2019
V2

THE FLOT LINE hosted by Rick Hughes
TRANSCRIPTS 2019 Volume 2 May–August





RICK HUGHES, founder and President of Rick Hughes Evangelistic Ministries, Inc., communicates clear and concise Biblical principles for hearers to choose to use in their lives. For over 50 years, Rick has presented the truth to thousands of students and spoken at hundreds of schools and churches. He authored several books and hosts a weekly radio broadcast and podcast, *The FLOT Line*, all available, for free, on his website, rickhughesministries.org.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Rick was raised in a modest, single-parent home. He distinguished himself through excellence in athletics being named to the High School All American football team and set state records in the shot put and discus. The University of Florida signed Rick to a full football scholarship, but his SAT scores were too low. Challenged by a coach to overcome this failure, Rick applied himself in the classroom as he had done on the field. He seized the challenge, got a second chance, entered the University of Alabama as

a football player under the training of prestigious coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, and the team won a national championship that year. After just one successful year, however, Rick quit school and drifted down the *my way highway*. Rick emphasizes *bad decisions limit future options*, and *God gave you two ends: one to sit on and one to think with*. *Success in life depends on which end you use. Heads you win—tails you lose*. Many of Rick's personal experiences help to vividly teach these principles.

Rick's turning point came when he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior, by faith alone in Christ alone. This is the most important decision in your life, also. Rick's decision opened a new path, not of football, but one personally designed for him by God. Through the ministry of Berachah Church in Houston, Texas, and its pastors, R. B. Thieme, Jr. and now R. B. Thieme III, Rick learned principles and promises of God's Word that directed him into a life of Christian ministry. Rick's life is proof that when you leave your own agenda behind and walk into God's plan, you can have fulfillment and happiness beyond your imagination. "For with God, nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

BOOKS by RICK HUGHES

The FLOT Line Transcripts
God's Problem-Solving Devices Bookmark
Bible Promises & Principles
Life's Toughest Years
A Divine Pardon
Understanding Your Soul
Practicing Your Christianity
Christian Problem Solving Workbook

PODCAST

The Flot Line podcast can be found on: Anchor, Apple, Spotify, Google, Breaker and RadioPublic

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Rick Hughes Evangelistic Ministries, Inc. was founded for the purpose of communicating the Word of God to students and administrators in private schools and churches across the United States. This ministry is non-denominational in its thrust and is conducted freely without charge or obligation. No material is sold and no offerings are taken.



THE FLOT LINE
hosted by Rick Hughes
Transcripts
2019 Volume 2 (May-August)

I've been doing *The FLOT Line* radio show since July 2005. Every Sunday it airs on radio stations across our nation, and in autumn 2019 we made it available as a podcast. Want to know how it all began? I had done a radio ad for Bass Pro Shops. A radio producer heard it and contacted me, "Big Rick, you've got a great radio voice - you should take your ministry to the airwaves." And that was the start of *The FLOT Line*.

FLOT is an acronym for Forward Line of Troops. *The FLOT Line* teaches principles from the Bible and focuses on God's ten unique problem-solving devices. If you choose to learn and apply them, they will act as a main line of resistance in your soul, a FLOT line, preventing the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside pressure of stress in your soul.

My intent is to give you information to help you identify the plan of God for your life. If you will choose to orient and adjust to God's plan, you will have a truly amazing future. My ministry, presenting the Gospel and communicating clear principles from the Word of God, is possible only because of God's grace. I am grateful to my heavenly Father and to my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who have provided the means and direction for me; and thankful for the Lord's provision of servants whose talents and resources made this book a reality.

Remember, adversity is inevitable in life but stress is optional. You can prepare for adversity by knowing and using God's problem-solving devices. Take note of Psalm 62:1-2, King David's testimony to the power of having a FLOT line in his soul:

*My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation.
He only is my rock and my deliverance, My strength; I shall not be shaken.*

If you have listened to any of my broadcasts, this intro is familiar: "Welcome to *The FLOT Line* with your host, Rick Hughes. For the next thirty minutes you will be inspired, motivated, educated, but never manipulated." Now you can read the content of those episodes without charge or obligation. Welcome to *Transcripts of The FLOT Line*.

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Having a Relaxed Mental Attitude

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 715 aired on May 5, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I am your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around. We are just trying to give you accurate information. Information that will hopefully help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you want to orient and adjust to the plan, you have the privilege and the honor to do so. Let us remember this, God gave you two ends - there isn't any doubt about that, you can look in the mirror and you can see them both. God gave you two ends, one to sit with and one to think with. Success in your life depends on which one you use. If it's heads then you will win, if it's tails then you will lose. This show is about getting you to think properly and orient to the grace of God. In 2 Peter 3:18 the Bible says, "*Grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" The FLOT Line is about developing grace orientation - biblical orientation - doctrinal orientation - so that you build in your soul a main line of resistance that is based on ten unique problem-solving devices. If you learn these ten unique problem-solving devices and apply them into your soul then it is possible you could stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's why repeatedly I say stress is optional, adversity is inevitable. Adversity is what those circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself. You do not have to worry, you do not have to be angry, you do not have to be disillusioned, you do not have to be bitter - these are things you do to yourself. The Bible mandates, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, that you grow and understand God's grace purpose for your life, get some knowledge and understand His plan and how His plan works. If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, I cannot imagine you listening to the radio show but let me encourage you that the single greatest decision you could ever make is to accept Christ as your Savior. It's a simple act of faith. You don't have to join up, show up, fess up, give up - you just have to believe. That's why the Bible clearly says, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16). Jesus Himself said, "*This is the will of the One that sent Me that you believe in Me, whom He has sent*" (John 6:40). Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ means you recognize that He's the anointed Son of God. You recognize that He died as a substitution for you, He took your place, He paid the penalty for your sin. And you are willing to receive the forgiveness that He offers in love and grace. The Bible says, "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Romans 10:13). That's anybody. You can go to God the Father, and you can simply say, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is Your anointed Son. I believe He died and paid for my sin and I want to accept Him as my Savior.' That simple act of faith, three short lines there, will guarantee you eternal life forever. The Bible says, "*For by grace are you saved through faith; it's a gift from God; not of works, lest someone would brag about it*" (Ephesians 2:8-9). It's an amazing thing to know Christ and to begin your life all over again. To reboot your life. The Bible says, "*If any man is in Christ, he's a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The day you believe in Jesus Christ is the day you are born again. It's your second birthday. That's why the

Lord Jesus Christ told Nicodemus he needed to be born again. He couldn't go to heaven unless he was born-again. Nicodemus was a little taken back by that because he didn't quite understand what it meant. He thought maybe Jesus was referring to physical birth. Nicodemus said it's impossible. And the Lord said no, it's a spiritual birth. Born-again means that spiritually you are made alive in Christ. The wonderful news is, Jesus Christ said, *"I will never leave you. I will never forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5). Also, John recorded, *"These things are written so that you may know that you have eternal life"* (1 John 5:13). Not try, hope, wish, want but you can know that you have eternal life. He goes on to say, in 1 John 5:12, *"He that has the Son has life; he that has not the Son of God has not life."* So with that in your mind, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, your objective is to learn God's protocol plan, to understand how God's plan works and to put it into practice in your life. That requires the thinking part of your soul. The end that you think with - your mind. If you think right and learn God's protocol plan, then you wind up doing right things in the right way and you will hear God saying someday, Well done My good and My faithful servant. But the Christian life is not ritual without reality to it. Many people seem to want it to be that. They don't want to take the time to understand the mechanics, they just want to go through the motion. The nod to God crowd that shows up every Sunday - 'Hello God. Nice to see you this morning God. I'll see you next Sunday God.' - and then it's off to the races for the rest of the week. You can be a Christian and do that but you are never going to grow up spiritually until you began to actually sacrifice some time, begin to study God's Word, learn God's Word and apply it in your life. Now today I want to talk to you little bit about a relaxed mental attitude. If you are able to build a main line of resistance in your soul, which means you learn those ten problem-solving devices: starting with rebound (dealing with the problem of sin), then moving to the filling of the Holy Spirit (dealing with the problem of the sin nature), and then moving to faith-rest (where you deal with the problem of unknown circumstances), and then to grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, eventually having a personal sense of destiny and then developing virtue love with personal love for God (on one side of the coin) and impersonal love for others (on the other side of the coin), this gives you the happiness that God has for you to share with Him and finally, to be occupied with Christ. Those are the ten unique problem-solving devices. By the way, we put them on a bookmark. If you want a bookmark just write us. No charge, they are free. We will be glad to send you as many as you'd like. You can put it in the pages of your Bible. It is a beautiful bookmark, about 10-inches long and not too wide and it lists all ten problem-solving devices for you. You should be able to say them by memory because it's important that you know how these work, how each one of them works. Part of them are definitely related to you having a relaxed mental attitude in your life. Having a relaxed mental attitude is one of the advantages to establishing a FLOT line in your soul. It's a tremendous advantage for you to be relaxed and not to worry and not to panic. I can best describe this RMA, I call it - let's refer to the relaxed mental attitude as an RMA. I can best describe this attitude as you having the mind of Christ. Since we are mandated to think like He thought in the Scriptures. In Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* We have three

enemies: the flesh; the world; and the devil. They all fight to control what you think. They manipulate you by controlling your emotions. This is not what God does. He's not a manipulator. God gives you the choice to learn His Word, use His Word and live a phenomenal life or ignore His Word and trot down the my-way-highway. That's up to you. But if you can understand what having a relaxed mental attitude means - it means that you never worry. If we are going to have the mind of Christ, if we are going to assimilate His thinking by learning the Scriptures because the Bible says the New Testament is the mind of Christ. This means He never worried, He never gave into any jealousy, He never was intimidated by irrational fear, nor did He ever become bitter and many many other attitudes. I can definitely assure you that our Lord had one thing, He had a sense of humor. I believe that with all my heart. Just look at the ones He chose to be His disciples, a bunch of fishermen, a tax collector and others. Good grief, what a bunch of guys. You would've thought He didn't choose any of the educated ones, He chose the undereducated ones and they had a sense of humor. Don't tell me fishermen don't laugh and joke and cut up and carry-on. It must've been a hoot traveling around with these disciples because I can assure you they had a sense of humor and I know that our Lord had a sense of humor. I could tell you many things about that but we won't go into all that, it's not necessary. But having an RMA doesn't just mean you have a sense of humor. It also means you use faith-rest in your life and you have virtue love. You understand impersonal love and personal love. If you have these things it gives you the ability to look at people (that's virtue love) and look at circumstances (with faith-rest drill) in an entirely different way so that you don't think like the rest of the world thinks. You live to the different drumbeat. You live to the drumbeat of the Scriptures - the Word of God - what we call divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint. The world lives by human viewpoint. You live by divine viewpoint. It's a different way of thinking. It's a relaxed mental attitude and it's the ultimate attitude that comes with occupation with Jesus Christ. When you get to problem-solving device #10, occupation with Christ, this is the ultimate attitude, a relaxed mental attitude. Once you begin to have personal love for God and once you begin to be occupied with the person of Christ then you will no longer feel threatened by things in your life that disturbed you, and you will lose that inferiority complex (which is part of arrogance most of the time) and you can replace it with a relaxed mental attitude. What a way to think. Love for other believers, even the weird ones, that's a relaxed mental attitude. You must be able to love one another. The Bible says this is how the world can tell that you are a Christian, that you have love one for another. But sometimes it's hard to love the weirdos. How do we do it? We do it with virtue love. We do it with impersonal love, one of our problem-solving devices. Impersonal love means that we love them based on who we are, not based on who they are. It's the same love God used for you in John 3:16 where it says, "*God so loved the world.*" He loved you. But weren't you a jerk before you accepted Christ as your Savior? Aren't you a bit of a weirdo even now? He still loves you. He hasn't given up on loving you. You may have walked out on God, but I promise you, He never walked out on you. In your life you may have just a few true friends but you must have a relaxed mental attitude towards all believers, including the worst kind of believers, the legalistic, nosy,

emotional believers. This relaxed mental attitude we call *agape* love. There are several different words in the Bible that are translated love. *Agapao* is a wonderful love and it's a category of love that's related to the person. This relaxed mental attitude of *agape* love (category III love) regardless of what the person, the believer is like, you are never to have any mental attitude sins towards any other believer including your spouse. You say you love your spouse but you get angry and you say things you shouldn't say - that's not a relaxed mental attitude. So when your spouse does something that irritates you, a relaxed mental attitude can forgive and forget. The relaxed mental attitude is you not having anger, you not having bitterness, you not having jealousy towards any believers. It comes from the balance of residency in your soul. That is when you are filled with the Holy Spirit (problem-solving device #2) and when you have Bible doctrine in your soul (problem-solving device #5) then and only then personality is no more an issue because you are going to get along with even the bad personalities. This wonderful attitude of impersonal love from the filling of the Holy Spirit and from doctrine in your soul gives you a relaxed mental attitude towards all men because you have some spiritual momentum in your life. Spiritual momentum means you are growing, you are processing information and you are moving from a baby Christian to a student Christian to eventually (hopefully) an adult Christian to be a mature believer. It's important you understand that. Even in death (that's going to come someday too) the mature believer, the believer who's grown, the believer who's learned God's protocol plan can actually laugh at Satan's intent since he knows the One who holds the future. In Job 5:19 we have an illustration of the concept of grace deliverance in living grace and even in dying grace - this is grace orientation (problem-solving device #4). Listen carefully. This is the illustration of the relaxed mental attitude when grace delivers you at that point. Written in Job 5:19-22, *"In six troubles, He [God] will deliver you, furthermore in seven evil will not touch you. In famine He will preserve you from death, and in combat from the stroke of the sword. You will be hidden from the lash of the tongue, and you will not be afraid of violent death when it comes. You will laugh [that's the relaxed mental attitude, a wonderful sense of humor] at death and famine, even from wild animals of the earth, having nothing to fear."* Does that mean you literally laugh? No, what it means is you are not intimidated by death. You are relaxed, you are not intimidated by the criminal or these things. This is not some hysterical laughter, it's referring to a relaxed mental attitude. It is humorous because you are not afraid of dying (as most people are) because you know who holds the future. It's a perfect happiness at work in your soul (problem-solving device #9). Even in military combat, a mature believer, a believer who's grown in grace and knowledge of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, he can maintain the same RMA. Laughter, you see, expresses the right mental attitude of the mature believer even in combat. Job 41:26-29, *"The sword that reaches him cannot prevail, nor the spear nor the dart nor the javelin. He regards iron as straw, bronze as rotten wood. The arrows cannot cause him to flee; sling stones are turned into stubble for him. Battle clubs are regarded as stubble; he laughs at the rattling of the javelin."* Again the laugh. **The relaxed mental attitude in combat. The mature believer can laugh or have an RMA at whatever the enemy throws at him because he knows**

Jesus Christ controls history. He knows God has a marvelous, wonderful plan for his life. What is there to fear? There is nothing to fear. If Jesus Christ is in control and God the Father knows what's going on, what is there to fear? Nothing! That doesn't mean you jump up out of your foxhole and go running towards the enemy saying, 'Shoot me if you can.' That's not what it is saying. It is saying you will not be frozen by fear, you will have a relaxed mental attitude. You will be calm when other people are panicking because you have doctrine in your soul. Remember that an RMA gives you the ability for you to think under pressure, just like what I'm telling you, you can think under pressure. So when tranquility and contentment become a major part of your life then people will no longer be able to hurt or shock you, they won't cause you to react. You will have capacity for life, love and happiness. You now have the capacity to see objectively, with an RMA, all the things that used to disturb you. When you react to unfair treatment you show lack of spiritual maturation, you haven't grown spiritually. With an RMA in your life, people can't hurt or shock you. You are totally relaxed. You know the Father is in control. You know the plan goes on. You have the capacity to see things objectively with tranquility and contentment in your life. You are not under an emotional overload which can steal your RMA. I am not describing an RMA as an emotion - it's a way of thinking. As a matter of fact, many believers get distracted with their emotions and want some type of spiritual high or spiritual feeling. These sorts usually, in my opinion, take themselves way too serious. I don't know if you have been around any Christians like that but I have and they are obnoxious. They take themselves way too serious. And they will be quick to judge you if you don't fit into their expectations, I assure you of that. If you don't take it as serious as they take it then you must not really be a Christian and they will judge and malign you and try to manipulate you into doing things that are not normal. You know, 'Brother if you love the Lord, get some tracts and go out on the street corner and pass them out to everybody, tell them Jesus is coming soon.' Or 'Brother if you love the Lord, you won't go down to that Walmart because they sell alcoholic beverages.' Or 'Brother if you love the Lord, you won't do this or that.' This is the crazy. These are manipulators, legalists that try to impress God. No more different than the Pharisees that our Lord faced. It's another form of intimidation that you will face as a believer - a legalist. As a young Christian one time I bought a handgun (I'll never forget this). A legalist said, 'You bought a gun?' And I said, 'Yeah, I did.' Then he said to me, 'Well brother, don't you trust the Lord?' I said, 'Yes, I do. (I'm always thinking about the joke) I'm trusting Him to make that bullet go right where I aim it.' I didn't buy a gun to shoot anybody, that was not my objective. I did buy a handgun for protection and there's nothing wrong with that. The Lord even told the disciples take a sword with them when they go out on the road. The legalist is going to do anything he can to make you seem not very spiritual. I even had a guy one time, he was a pastor, wouldn't fish in a bass tournament with me because he said that was gambling. I said, 'What?' 'Yeah brother, that's gambling and my people wouldn't look on me very good if I was gambling.' It wasn't like we were going to the casino to play blackjack, we were just in a bass tournament, fishing for a trophy. Anyhow, this is how ridiculous it gets. So I pray that you will grow in grace and break the

chains of legalism that hold you back. Unfortunately, sometimes it comes through denominational traditions and denominational expectations. Like, 'You can't be a good Christian brother, if you eat peanuts.' Stupid stuff like that. Legalists will try to impose that on you and they will be offended if you seem to be having a good time in life. It's interesting what people think about life and what is fun and what's not fun. Let me tell you what I have. I have the most fantastic relaxed mental attitude based on God's plan for my life, based on the Word of God for my life. You should have it too. You should have a sense of humor. You should be able to laugh. You should be able to not take yourself too seriously. Our Lord was in business way before you got here and He's going to be in business long after you are gone. Saving the whole world does not depend on us. We need to do our share to re-present Jesus Christ, represent Him to our family, to our friends, to our neighbors anyone we can come in contact with, offering them the good news. But remember this, God the Holy Spirit is always going to be here working, promoting the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, helping people to see who and what they really are. So you have to be careful here when you get in to this overly hyper-Jesus attitude. I have seen it destroy friendships. **Your RMA is your attitude. Mental attitude is a function of human thought. Your mental attitude is what you are at any given time throughout the day. Consequently, the real battlefield for your soul is what you think. The life of every believer is in his mental attitude. The life of every believer is determined experientially by two principles: what he thinks and what he decides.** God knows what you are thinking, your intentions, your motivations, what your desires are. That's why He is God. He knows all of that. Divine viewpoint mental attitude is a part of the greatest delegation of divine power in human history. When you can have divine viewpoint - the mind of Christ - because you've learned it, you've grown in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ then what you think is more important than anything else in your life. Many believers are struggling through life as mindless losers, full of emotion, not thinking. What counts is the power of divine viewpoint in the stream of consciousness. What you really are as a person is what you really think - not what you appear to be on the surface, not the way you dress or the way you are groomed - but on the inside, the real you is the invisible you. Keep that in mind as we wrap this show up today. It's your soul that is the real you. You are not always what you appear to be on the surface. Some people can hide their thoughts and some people can't. Some people hide their thoughts and become adept at practicing hypocrisy. That's why Galatians 6:3 says, *"For if anyone thinks he is something when is nothing, he is deceiving himself."* Thinking is either the application of doctrine to your life or the application of arrogance and ignorance which is nothing more than human viewpoint. So there you have it. Do you have a relaxed mental attitude? Are you able to be relaxed because of the Word of God in your soul? Do you have a sense of humor? Do you not take yourself too seriously? This is all about having an RMA which is the reason you build that FLOT line in your soul. That's what glorifies Jesus Christ to the maximum - when you think like He thought. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

My Kind of Lady

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 716 aired on May 12, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. I'd like to invite you to stick around, stay with me for a few minutes. About 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and we do this without any kind of manipulation. We don't seek to solicit money. We are not asking you for money. We are not trying to sell you anything. We are not trying to hustle you up to join anything. We are simply trying to give you accurate information. Hopefully, that will verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you can do that, you have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan - that's up to you. Remember that God gave us two ends. One of those ends we think with the other one we sit on. Success in your life depends on which one you use. Heads you'll win, tails you'll lose. The Bible says in Romans 12:3 (in a modified expanded translation), "*Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think but think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word.*" So success in life is about what you think. Thinking divine viewpoint or thinking human viewpoint. Does the Bible comment on what you should think? Absolutely it does! It says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). That's a mandate to think like He thought and it starts with the next verse which says, "*He humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation.*" Humility is the key to orienting to God's grace. Submission to authority, recognition of authority - these go together. Recognition and submission means you understand the authority of God's Word and you submit. You have a volition. God is a gentleman. He didn't force you to do anything, He gives you the choice. You can make your own decisions about what you want to do and how you want to live but you will be held accountable for your life. Remember bad decisions limit future options. If you make enough bad decisions you are just not going to have very many options left. My prayer is that you will listen to the FLOT Line and you will let me encourage you to get under a well-qualified pastor. That you will find a man who can teach you God's Word consistently on a daily basis. You might not have a pastor in the area where you live but there are many that I know that can supply you with DVDs or MP3s at no charge. They won't sell you anything. They won't say, 'for a gift of \$19.95 I'll send you my latest package of messages.' Nothing like that. But it is available. I know several men who are great, wonderful pastors who have been in the pulpit for over 40 years that can supply you with wonderful Bible teaching in your home in the form of a DVD or an MP3 or books or things like this that you can study. This is the way that I study at home. I do have a local church that I attend, but every day, every morning when I get up, I put in a DVD to listen to the teaching of the Word of God from my wonderful friend and my pastor. It's the way that I grow spiritually. Much of what I teach you, I would say 90% of what I teach you, I learned from my pastor. I hope you are listening. I hope you understand the importance. I'm not a pastor I'm just an evangelist. My job is to encourage you, to get you to a point where you want to grow, where you want to learn more. I pray that this radio show is enlightening you and giving you the opportunity to see that. Today is Mother's Day and I want to talk about my kind of lady.

We will start off by talking about the book of Proverbs chapter 31. Many people refer to this on Mother's Day I'm sure but we will have a little bit of a different look at it. Proverbs 31:30, to start off with, takes the negative approach. It says, "*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised.*" I know some very beautiful women and they have wonderful husbands, they are very charming people, very beautiful people. But that's not what gives them their beauty. What gives them their beauty is something else. They fear the Lord. They have great respect for God. You do not have to be a beautiful person on the outside to be a beautiful person on the inside. Look at Proverbs 31:30 again, we will go back to talking about what is the inside now, "*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain [the outside] but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised*" [that's the inside]. She has respect for God. In Proverbs 31:25-26 (backing up from 31:30) we'll see what's on the inside. The Bible says, "*Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future. She opens her mouth in wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*" Here are the real assets of an amazing woman - my kind of lady. This passage is well worth reading if you are a mom or a wife since it outlines the real inner beauty of an amazing woman. This proverb, Proverbs 31, was written by King Lemuel of whom we know very little. We do know these words of wisdom were taught to him by his mother, so I assume she was quite a virtuous lady. Among other things, she warned him of sexual immorality. Solomon had warned his own sons (Proverbs 5:1-6) where he spoke openly about the seductive woman and the results of listening to her flattery in your life. He told his sons that if they would listen to his wisdom and pay attention to his understanding that they could have discretion and insight into how the seductive seducer works her magic over the willing man. Again, he told his sons that if they would listen to his wisdom and pay attention to his understanding that they would have discretion and insight into how the seductive seducer works her magic over the willing man. Then he goes on to describe it in Proverbs 5:3-6, he says, "*For the lips of the adulteress drip honey, and smoother than oil is her speech; but in the end she is as bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps take hold of Sheol. She does not ponder the path of life; her ways are unstable, she does not know it.*" We recognize right away that the seductive seducer uses flattery to seduce the man. "*Her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end it's bitter as wormwood,*" in other words it's going to make you very sick, "*sharp as a two-edged sword*" it's going to cut you and destroy you and "*her feet go down to death and the steps of Sheol.*" She also cautioned him about the effects of a King drinking alcohol - she being King Lemuel's mother. She cautioned him not only about the seducer as a king but she cautioned him about the effects of drinking a lot of alcohol and the effects that it had on his leadership. In Proverbs 31:4-5, "*It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to desire strong drink, for they would drink and forget what is decreed, and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.*" So here's just some practical information from King Lemuel's mother that Solomon included in the Proverbs. Very wise of Solomon since he had said the same things to his sons. But when we get to Proverbs 31:10-31 we find King Lemuel's mother's wisdom in describing a woman of virtue and a woman who is worthy of

praise. This sort of woman Proverbs 31:31 says, “*Let her works praise her in the gates* [or in the public square].” In other words, let everyone in town know what an amazing lady this is. The virtues that she describes to her son are not only outward characteristics but internal virtue as well. I want to focus on the internal virtues of that amazing woman this morning. Let’s start off with Proverbs 31:30 and, if you are a wife or a mother, I hope you will use this study as a mirror to gauge how you yourself are doing. Proverbs 31:30, again, “*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain*” *Charm is deceitful*. *Charm* in the Hebrew refers to elegance or favor or beauty. Meaning outward beauty is not the most important feature in a woman. *Deceitful* in the Hebrew means a fraud or deception. I’m using the Hebrew words, that’s how this was written, in the Hebrew. Let’s remember this, her *charm is deceitful*, it’s a fraud, it’s a deception. *Beauty is vain*. *Beauty* in the Hebrew means splendor or graceful. *Vain* means a vapor, transitory, unsatisfactory. So again *charm is deceitful*. *Charm* the outward, the word refers to the elegance or the favor of beauty [meaning outward beauty] is not the most important feature in a woman. Her *charm is deceitful*. It’s a fraud, it’s a deception. *Beauty is vain*, again in this verse, the Hebrew word means splendor or gracefulness. Her *splendor is vain*, it’s transitory, it’s unsatisfactory. So here’s a couple of principles after we got through all of that. Here it is: (1) The charm of a beautiful woman can be a fraud. She may simply use her beauty - this is what King Lemuel’s mother was warning him about - she may simply use her beauty and her charm to manipulate you. (2) Beauty is fleeting. It does not last forever. You can look in the mirror, can’t you ladies? You can remember what you used to look like when you were 18, 19, 20. Go look in the mirror today. Beauty is fleeting, it does not last forever. (3) If this is all a man wants in his wife or a woman friend, he’s going to be greatly disappointed if that’s all he is looking for - only beauty. (4) The ability to speak with flattery and the ability to look amazing is not how you gauge a woman’s true beauty. The real beauty of a woman is in her soul. That’s the real beauty of a woman. Notice the next part of Proverbs 31:30, “... *but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised.*” This implies a personal relationship with God. To fear in the Hebrew means to stand in awe or to respect God and His mandates. The first thing I want to remind you of this morning, ladies, is the number one priority in your life should be to respect God and obey His Word. It is not how attractive you are, it’s not what kind of shape you are in - **it’s what kind of shape your soul is in**. Sure you may do yoga and you may do Pilates and you may do this and you may do that. You may keep your body toned, you may be very beautiful, you may go to the hairdresser, you may go to the pedicurist, you may go to a lot of different places but what is in your soul? Is there unhappiness and bitterness in your soul? Is there an empty longing in your soul, wishing that somebody or something could fill it? The great women that are in the Bible, the great women are the women who respect God and His Word. Naming a few like Rahab the harlot at Jericho who hid the Jewish spies overnight. She is mentioned in Joshua 2 and also in Joshua 6. She feared God. She recognized the Jewish God was the God of all gods and only she and her family were spared when Joshua overthrew Jericho in Joshua 2. Also mentioned in the Bible is Lydia, one of the first converts to Christianity in Acts 16:14-15 - Lydia. And even Ruth and Esther, two ladies of the

Old Testament whose lives reflect God's grace provisions totally. The Bible has a lot to say about amazing ladies. Wonderful ladies - Rahab, Lydia, Ruth, Esther and many others. I don't have time to go through a list of all the amazing women in the Bible. You can think about Mary Magdalene of the New Testament who was the first to come to the empty tomb the morning of the Resurrection. You can think about the other Mary and Solame who came with her. You can think about many great New Testament ladies as well. Isaiah gives a warning in the book of Isaiah to the women of Judah, the southern kingdom. He warns about what was coming to them from the Assyrian invasion that would occur in 701 BC. Here's the way he approaches this warning to the women of Judah. Isaiah 32:9, *“Rise up you women that are at ease, hear my voice you careless daughters; give ear to my speech.”* The Hebrew word for rise up means pay attention to. I believe that unless the ladies of America, the mothers and the daughters and the wives pay attention to the Word of God, we won't have a country much longer. I believe you are the backbone of the country. I believe it's your faith, your encouragement, your stability that stabilizes the man and the marriage and the home. So rise up you women that are at ease. It's not a time to be at ease. The only true objective, authentic textbook about women that I can find, (there are a lot of books about ladies for sale, go to Barnes & Noble or Amazon, you'll find them) but the Word of God is the only true, authentic textbook on women, I promise you. So the principle is this: in a nation where there is no respect for the Word of God, the woman's status is lower than the status of a horse or cow or sheep. That's true in the world today. **The greatest assistance to any woman comes from God's Word. No matter what a woman possesses, be it exterior beauty, materialistic things, even status in society, all of these are utterly and totally meaningless unless the woman has inner beauty, inner happiness and stability which only God provides through His Word for each born-again believer.** Is that you? Do you have that inner happiness and inner stability as a mom, as a wife, as a daughter? Can you say you have that? You should. As you learn the protocol plan of God under a well-qualified pastor the Holy Spirit will take the things that are deposited into your soul called a treasure - the treasure of God's Word. By the way, treasure is the Greek word thesaurus, it's a word treasure. So as you have a word treasure in your soul it gives you wisdom, understanding, discernment and insight. This will deliver you in your life. Ensuring that by living by God's Word you will have a wonderful, productive, amazing life. But you can make another decision. You can decide that you are going to do it your way. Like Frank Sinatra said, 'I did it my way.' How did that work out for him? Not too good. Are you going to do it your way? Are you going to marry the wrong man at the wrong time, the wrong way, for the wrong reason? You are going to wind up miserable. Or you can wait on God's logistical provision of grace - the man He designed for you. The man He deployed for you. That's a word of encouragement to you unmarried ladies that will be one day mothers and wives. *“Rise up you women that are at ease.”* Quit laying back waiting, just enjoying life. You have to understand, you are in the middle of an angelic conflict here. There's an angelic conflict going on and Satan is seeking to gain an advantage over you, over your children, over your husband, over your life. Here's a principle: **for a woman to be truly**

happy she must put first things first. What should be first? God's Word. *“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth [that’s in the Bible]”* (2 Timothy 2:15). I know, ‘I don't have time to study,’ you say, ‘I'm busy raising children. They have to be at basketball. They have to be at soccer. They have to be at ballet, they have to be at wherever they have to be.’ The devil's very good at creating distractions. Satan’s very good at getting you to lose track of time so that eventually you do not even spend time looking into the Word of God. You don't have a pastor that you listen to. You don't have a pastor that you study under. Oh you may pray when you need a miracle or when you want a genie or the eight ball to pop out and make it go away. But as far as any spiritual growth? It is not there because you have not put first things first. You have put the first thing last. You have ignored the Word of God. You have ignored the plan of God. You have been busy tending to your children and tending to the needs of your husband and tending to your household. Those things are important. No one is saying they are not. But first things must be first. Here’s another principle: **glamour will not carry you through life. A wonderful lady has something wonderful in her soul and that is what the verse said in Proverbs 31:30 - respect for the Lord, fear the Lord. The true strength of a woman is her inner beauty which is simply a thought pattern produced by God the Holy Spirit when He is filling her, and divine viewpoint in her soul replacing human viewpoint thinking.** Here's where the problem is. Are you under the control of the Holy Spirit? How do you lose control? By committing sin. When you sin - whether it's a mental attitude sin, a sin of the tongue or an overt sin - you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit. There is a problem-solving device to solve that, it is called rebound. You can rebound (problem-solving device #1), you can go to God the Father and confess your sin to Him as 1 John 1:9 says, and *“He will be faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.”* This is how you regain the filling of the Holy Spirit. But if you are going to ever regain your spiritual momentum you must decide. Just like you have to decide to lose weight, you have to decide to get in shape - you have to decide to do this. You use your volition every day to decide something. When will you decide it's time to get back to God's Word? When will you decide it's time to start making first things first again? That's the true strength that you should possess. The true inner beauty in your soul should be divine viewpoint thinking. Then you will understand grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, you'll understand impersonal love. All of these are problem-solving devices we've taught before and can teach you again. These are things you must have to have maximum happiness and capacity for life, capacity for love, capacity for living. It all comes from the Word of God in your soul. Proverbs 31:25 *“Strength and dignity are her clothing.”* Whose clothing? The woman who fears the Lord. Inner strength is what it's talking about. Strength, the Hebrew word means boldness, security or strength. This is a woman of great inner strength and that inner strength comes only from faith and trust in God's plan and God's provisions. The principle is, she is not disillusioned with life, she's not discouraged by circumstances, she's not bitter, she's not jealous, she's not possessive - she has strength and dignity. Dignity in the Hebrew means honor based on divine viewpoint. She

understands the authority of her husband and she understands her responsibilities. Proverbs 31:15 talks about this sort of woman, it says, *"She arises while it's still night and gives food to her household."* Proverbs 31:19, *"She extends her hand to the poor; and stretches out her hand to the needy."* Her inner strength is found in Proverbs 31:26, *"She opens her mouth in wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her lips."* The only way you get wisdom is to cycle the Word of God through your soul. It comes in as *gnosis*, the Greek word for knowledge, but it hasn't done you any good until you by faith believe it and apply it - the Bible uses the Greek word *epignosis* or full knowledge. Full knowledge is what we call *sophia* or the Greek word wisdom. **Wisdom is an amazing thing because it gives you discernment, it gives you insight and you don't get that any other way than through the intake of the Word of God.** So when this woman speaks, she gives the wisdom of God's Word and the plan of God's Word - doctrinal orientation. She teaches kindness - grace orientation. So here's two things she does. She teaches doctrinal orientation to her children, her husband, her friends and grace orientation. That's what comes out of her mouth. Nothing else. Solomon said he wrote these proverbs to give wisdom and instruction and to give the gift of discernment from understanding God's plan. He said in Proverbs 1:7, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise knowledge."* I pray you have been encouraged. I pray you've been enlightened on this Mother's Day so that when you look at yourself in the mirror of Proverbs 31 you will see the reflected image of an amazing woman. A woman of true virtue, true integrity, true dignity. That's the woman that God is looking for. I sure hope it's you. I hope this has encouraged you and you will re-listen to this if you need to. Contact me anytime you need some assistance. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Criminal Thinking - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 717 aired on May 19, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, just about 30 minutes, please stick around. We have some information for you that will encourage you, motivate you, give you some insight. Hopefully you will orient and adjust to the plan of God. My job is to just get it right and get it simple. Not try to beg for money, not try to solicit support but give you accurate information. Hopefully you will take that information and use it in your life, especially about what we are going to talk about today. Let me give you a few reminders before we jump in. God gave us two different ends. Let's don't forget that. One of those ends we sit on and the other one we think with. Success in our life will depend on which one we use the most. Heads you win, tails you lose. Remember, bad decisions limit future options. If you make enough bad decisions, obviously you don't have many options left. Your option as a Christian is to learn the Word of God, to replace human viewpoint thinking with divine viewpoint thinking. The Bible says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). In Romans 12:3, "*Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, but think in terms of humility as God has assigned each one of us a standard of thinking from His word.*" That standard of thinking is called divine viewpoint. When you can learn the Word of God and think divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint, then you have wonderful wisdom, wonderful insight and ability to make a good decision based on good information. Usually a faith-based decision. Not a decision based on emotions, but based on faith. A faith-based decision based on what the Word of God says. That's how we operate in this life - we operate on faith. There are several ways to perceive phenomena. We can perceive it empirically with scientific data, we can perceive it rationally with argument and logic or we can perceive it by faith. Faith is how Christians operate. Without faith it is impossible to please God, the Bible says. The study that I want to jump into this morning is related to something I taught you earlier, maybe two or three weeks ago, when we dealt with criminal adversity in the church. We want to go little bit further with that today. I want you to hear this because at some time in your life you are likely going to be a victim of a crime. As a believer in Jesus Christ, you may be twice as likely to be a victim of a crime because we may be more trusting, more open than other people are. Last time we looked at Psalm 37:1. Doctrinal orientation is a wonderful problem-solving device (problem-solving device #5) - when you orient your life to what the Word of God says and replace your thinking with divine viewpoint thinking. I gave you Psalm 37:1-2, "*Fret not yourself because of evil doers [that's the criminal] they shall soon be cut down like the grass and wither like the green herb.*" Let me go back to some things that my pastor taught me a long time ago. He said this: (1) the criminal is an irresponsible person. He is irresponsible and won't take responsibility. (2) All crime is a product of human volition, not environment. In other words, the criminal chose to be a criminal. He wasn't forced into it by the way he grew up or was raised or the community he lived in. He chose to do what he did. Just because a person lives in squalor doesn't mean they have to be a thief. Just because a person lives in the bad part of town doesn't

mean they have to be a drug dealer. We choose to do what we do. That's called human volition. The criminal lacks maturity. Since the criminal (he or she) can't handle any responsibility, they don't want to be answerable to any authority and they don't want to be held accountable until they are forced to obey. That's usually the police officer, the court, the jail, the prison, etc. The criminal has a fragmented soul, minus virtue, he has vindictive thinking, he violates the laws and his soul is fractured. Listen to James 1:8, "*a double-minded man is unstable in all of his ways.*" Now let's take this as a Christian. If it's a Christian criminal, he's double-minded. The Greek word means two-souled, it means he's uncertain, he has a divided interest, he vacillates. The criminal is not the only person with divided interest, it could be you also. Sin and the Word of God, or Bible doctrine, do not balance. One of them will destroy the other. This is a fact. This is how some Christians wind up becoming criminals. They choose to do what they do. They rationalize it in emotional revolt, they rationalize it through arrogance and they do what they do and eventually they get caught. Criminality is sinful but not all sin is a crime, that's for sure. Think about that one now and you'll understand that it is not a crime to worry, it is not a crime to be afraid, but these are mental attitude sins that you face in your life sometimes. The criminal does not respect the freedom of other people. He or she, in this case, doesn't even recognize the rights of other people. Thus they feel like they are justified in breaking into your home, breaking into your car, breaking into your bank account, stealing your credit card numbers. They justify that. You have it and they don't and they think you are guilty and they are not guilty. So as we do a case study of some crimes mentioned in the Bible, hopefully we can draw some conclusions and make applications to our life and to the circumstances that we are involved in. The first case study I want to look at is in the book of Genesis. This seems to be where the first criminal activity took part. There is a man named Cain who kills his brother, his name is Abel, and then he tries to hide it from God. And that's an interesting thing because what can be hidden from God? Nothing. The principles to learn in this study are threefold. (1) You have to learn the power of negative volition. Negative volition is very powerful. People that are negative to the plan of God, you will not change. If they have negative volition you can argue with them until you are blue in the face, you are not going to change anybody. As a matter of fact, the only person you can really change is yourself. You can't change the way your kids think, you can't change the way your wife thinks - you can only change yourself. God the Holy Spirit can do the changing if they are convicted. If the Holy Spirit convicts them, they can change if they want to. Just like you can't make anybody lose weight, you can't make anybody vote Republican, you can't make anybody cut their grass - they have to choose to do it. The power of negative volition will be seen in the life of Cain. (2) We will see the impact of hatred and jealousy causing the first crime. And we will see the first evidence of sin as it relates to violence. Genesis 4:1-15 gives us some insight on this. Here's a question I want you to think about. How did Abel know what to do in this case? This is about making a sacrifice. How did Abel know to do the right sacrifice? The answer is, his parents taught him. Cain rejected what he had been taught by his parents and chose to present his sacrifice his own way. He chose not to do what his brother did. His brother did what his parents

taught him to do. So here we go. Genesis 4:1, *“Now the man Adam had relations with his wife Eve, [that’s sex] and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, ‘I’ve gotten a manchild with the help of the Lord.’ And again she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, Cain was a tiller of the ground. [this is the case of the farmer vs the shepherd] So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. [kumquats, squash, spinach and all that sort of stuff, watermelons, cantaloupe, whatever] But Abel, on his part brought the firstlings of his flock and their fat portions.”* He made a blood sacrifice. This is what was required in Genesis to cover the sin of Adam and Eve when God killed an animal and clothed them with the skin of an animal. That was the first blood sacrifice. It has always been that way in the Jewish religion in the sacrifice of the Passover lamb. The blood had to be put over the doorpost or the Passover angel would kill anybody in the house. This is the Passover. Here is Abel doing what his parents taught which his parents saw God do - that’s make the sacrifice. It says, *“the Lord respected Abel.”* The Hebrew word means to consider what he did. In Genesis 4:5, *“He considered Abel’s offering. But for Cain and his offering He had no regard [no respect]. So Cain became very angry.”* This is being mad at God and Cain took it out on his brother. Let me suggest something. If for one minute in your life you ever think God treated you unfairly and you have been mad at God, you must wake up and stop doing that. There’s no way God would ever treat you unfair or anybody unfair because *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”* (John 3:16). He doesn’t hate you. He’s not mad at you. Sometimes you may come under the justice of God because you leave Him no choice. Like a parent that has to discipline their child. So Cain got angry at God and at his brother. What was in his mind was displayed on his face. *“His countenance fell. [sourpuss, operation lips turned down, grinding his teeth, mad] Then the Lord said to Cain, [actually had a conversation with him; this is the Lord Jesus Christ in the pre-incarnate form] ‘Why are you angry? [in other words, why are you sinning] and why has your countenance fallen [unhappy face]? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? But if you don’t do well, then sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you,’”* That’s a good thing for you to remember. If you obey God, that’s a good thing. But if you don’t obey God, sin is tempting you, it’s crouching at the door, it’s going to jump on you, its desire is to control you. God, the Lord Jesus Christ, went on to tell Cain, *“you must master it.”* Don’t be a slave to your sin nature trends. Both Cain and Abel had a sin nature just like you and I. They inherited that sin nature from their father Adam. **You have to learn how to control the sin nature.** So the Lord Jesus Christ gives a warning, you must master your sin nature. In Genesis 4:8, *“And Cain told Abel his brother. [maybe looking for some sympathy] And it came about when they were in the field, ...”* They were out there working in the field or maybe Cain invites Abel over to look at his latest crop of cantaloupes and says, ‘You know what God told me the other day?’ And off he went on the Lord and he got very angry and he got very mad. Maybe Abel rebuked him. Whatever happened, *“Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.”* I don’t know if this was premeditated murder or they just had a big fight and he killed him, but the determined criminal can lure you before he attacks you. Cain lured Abel into the garden.

Cain wanted Abel to get out there away from his parents and away from everybody so there would be no witnesses of what was about to happen. In Genesis 4:9, *“Then the Lord said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ And Cain [in his natural humility, I’m being facetious now] said, ‘I don’t know. Am I my brother’s keeper?’ And the Lord said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground. [the Lord knew exactly what he had done, he had killed him and buried him] And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood [so now he’s cursed from the ground] from your hand. When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer give you strength; you will now be a vagrant and the rest of your life and wander over the face of the earth.’”* This is a life sentence. Maybe unintentional homicide thus he is not sentenced to death. There were no prisons at the time so I don't really know what's going on here except that this is his sentence - you will wander the earth forever, as long as you are alive you'll never have ability to cultivate the ground and you'll just be a wanderer. *“And Cain said, ‘My punishment is too great for me to bear!’ [here we go, that's not fair] Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I'll be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.’ So the Lord said to him, ‘Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold.’ And the Lord appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him.”* I've researched and cannot find out what that sign was. Some people said it was a dog. I don't know. It was a sign whatever it was. I'm not really here to discuss that. There's no way I can cover all of the doctrines taught in this passage in just one or so radio shows. But I want to focus on a couple things and I want you to look at this in your life. (1) Cain rejected the authority of his parents and as a result, murdered his brother. So crime came into the world because of the rejection of parental authority. That's where it started. He knew the proper thing to do. He knew the right way to do it. But he wasn't going to do it. (2) When Cain murdered Abel (Genesis 4) that was a Satanic attack on the seed of Adam. Because Adam had been promised that through your seed the Savior the Messiah would come - Genesis 3:15 the proto-evangel, the promise of the Redeemer. So this was an attack on the first promise given to Adam after he sinned - that God the Father would provide a Savior from Adam's seed who would come through the woman as the child bearer. Satan and the fallen angels understood that the Savior would come in the line of Adam, as true humanity, through the woman. Therefore, Satan knew he had to cut off that line from Adam to Christ. He knew that. So in the first generation Satan inspired Cain to murder Abel who was a believer. But then the line continued on through the next born child which was Seth. Eve had another son, Seth. So Satan realized murder would not work to cut off the line. If he had Seth killed then God would just give her another boy. Killer lust is a problem-solving device of Satan. He is a murderer. The Bible tells us he's a murderer. He's always been a murderer. Killer lust is a problem-solving device of any weak person. Inferior people trying to prove that they are superior often result to violence, torture and even murder. There is no doubt that Satan inspired Cain to murder Abel, who was a believer, to keep the Savior from coming into the world. But Seth also became a believer and so the line of Christ came down, not through Abel, but through

Seth. Cain followed the same principles that his mother followed in her original sin - arrogance and pride. He was proud of what he did as a farmer and he was arrogant. He wanted to be accepted by God based on who and what he was. He became very bitter because of his arrogance. He thought he was maltreated by God. I hope you've never felt that way. Here are some more principles. **The mental attitude sin of bitterness and jealousy can motivate someone, even a Christian, to commit horrible crimes. Everything from slander to murder.** If you don't believe me, just look at American politics. Corrupt power will stop at nothing to keep the power. There have been many murders in the political scene of American history, I assure you. Most of them you don't know about, but it happens. Power wants to keep the power. Everything from slander to murder. It's the public lie and getting the public to turn on a person or whatever they can do to keep their power. If that doesn't work then kill them. That's the way it goes. Always has been that way because it's Satanic in its origin. Jealousy is fed from the unrealistic self-image of arrogance. Maybe you can't stand someone simply because you are jealous of them. Maybe you are jealous of their prosperity or their social status. This mental attitude sin is one of the worst. Resentment of other people is associated jealousy. Jealousy and bitterness always go together. Jealous people become emotional people who then become irrational people. So we had jealous Cain, emotional Cain, irrational Cain. Jealous of Abel, emotionally arguing with God, rejecting (I'm not my brother's keeper, that's what he said, and so then here we go), at the end he becomes irrational and commits murder. This is true of a jealous lover. A spouse can become very irrational and can commit murder. It's been done many times in history. There have been many murders with jealousy. Cain was jealous of Abel who received God's blessing and thus Cain became emotional and irrational plotting to get even with his brother. Thus, the irrational jealousy became uncontrollable anger with the intent of malice or harm. Jealousy like bitterness is related to hatred. Since jealousy is both an arrogance and emotional sin, it's totally irrational in its hatred and totally irrational in resentment of other people. What does the Bible say about it? Proverbs 27:4, "*Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, but who can stand before jealousy?*" In James 3:14 and 16, "*But if you have bitter jealousy and strife in your heart, do not become arrogant and lie against the truth.*" "*For where jealousy and strife exist, there is unruliness [that's lack of control] and evil deeds [that's murder and revenge].*" So the criminal, obviously Cain, thought he could deceive God. Criminals think they can deceive God. They deceived you didn't they? So they figure if they can deceive you they can deceive God. 'You won't know I broke into your home, you won't know who I was, I did it in the middle of the night when you were not there, so I deceived you' they say. They will claim that no one knew who they were, but God does. God knows exactly who it was. I've had stuff stolen in broad daylight in front of the hotel sitting there two doors down from the entrance. People break in and steal things. I didn't know who it was. But it wasn't me they stole from it was God because it was God's car and God's supplies. I didn't have to worry about taking vengeance, the Lord can handle that. That's why the supreme court of heaven is open 24-hours a day. So here is the principle: **God sees everything. Nothing is hidden from Him.** The criminal can be a thief in the

middle of the night, in the dark night, black clothes, black hat, black mask, even sunglasses but God can see him. Proverbs 15:3, *“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching evil and good.”* Have you been a thief? Have you been a deceiver? Have you thought that no one recognized what you did with your finances, checking account or taxes? God does. In 1 Samuel 16:7, *“The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his countenance, don’t look on the height of his stature, because I refused him; man looks on the outside, I look on the heart.’”* He has the ability to see your motives, He has the ability to see your intentions and He has the ability to see your desires. Isn’t it funny how Cain thought his punishment was too harsh? *“Cain said to the Lord, ‘My punishment is too great to bear. You’ve driven me this day from the face of the ground and from Your face I will be hidden and I’ll be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth and who ever finds me will kill me’”* (Genesis 4:13-14). Pity me. He didn't mind killing his brother but he didn't want anyone to kill him. How about that? The criminal, like Cain, ultimately becomes a coward under God's justice and complains about harsh treatment. I remember the story about a young man in Alabama who was a very mean criminal, a very brutal criminal. My friend who was the head deputy of the sheriff's department took him to prison. They had to go back and get him maybe six months later to testify. And when they went back to pick him up, he was a totally different man - humble, quiet, didn't say very much. My friend said, ‘You know when I brought you down here you were pretty tough and pretty mean. What happened to change that here?’ And the criminal said, ‘Well, they had me out there working in those cotton fields in 100° - really hot. I asked the guard if could get a drink of water.’ The guard said, ‘It's over there on the tractor, go and get you a cup of water.’ The criminal saw that tractor driver sitting up there with that umbrella drinking water and asked how he could get to drive one of those tractors? The guard said, ‘It’s simple, just take that guy off and you can have it.’ My friend, who was with him, looked at him and the guy told my friend, ‘You know they’ve got some real mean tractor drivers down there.’ So he got humbled a little bit. He just wasn’t able to take him off that tractor. Criminals often become cowards under God's justice and complain about harsh treatment. **God knows all of your intentions, all of your desires, all your motivation. God knows that. You are not going to pull the wool over His eyes. You might as well face up to the fact that you have sinned, you might as well confess the sin to God before it's too late and you get in deeper than you are already.** You may be already in pretty deep. Now is the time to get out. Now is the time to be honest like David said in Psalm 32, As long as I hid it I just dried up like an old man and died, but when I confessed my sin, You gave me the vitality of my life back. **You can't be a criminal and serve God. Think about that. You are not going to get away with anything. Sooner or later He will expose you.** Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Criminal Thinking - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 718 aired on May 26, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I am your host Rick Hughes and I ask you to stick around for a few minutes of motivation, inspiration, some education and all without manipulation. I ask you to listen as I try to verify and identify the plan of God for your life so you can orient and adjust to the plan. It's up to you. My job is to get it right, present it to you in a nonemotional way. I want you to remember that God gave you two ends. One of those ends you are sitting on and the other one you are supposed to be thinking with. Success in life will depend on which one of those ends you use. Heads you win, tails you lose. Success in life is all about what you think. You can think human viewpoint or you can think divine viewpoint. Human viewpoint is what the world says about anything. Divine viewpoint is the mind of Christ, which is the Bible, what the Bible says about anything. As you come across passages in the Bible you don't agree with, sometimes you try to justify why you don't like them. There are a lot of passages in the Bible that comment on social things that are going on today and people say, 'God didn't really mean it that way. It's okay, don't pay any attention to it.' But anytime you reject the Word of God there are consequences. Not only are there individual consequences but there are national consequences as well. As we go through the Word of God, as we talk about what the Bible has to say to us individually and collectively as a nation, listen up carefully. We have been talking about criminal arrogance on this show. This is why you need a FLOT line. If this happens to be the first time you have listened, a FLOT line is simply ten problem-solving devices taught in the Bible. If you will learn these ten problem-solving devices and use them in your life every day they will stop you from getting into stress. They cannot prevent adversity - adversity is inevitable - but they can prevent stress. The first problem-solving device you should be aware of is rebound or how to confess your sin when you fail. The Bible says, "*If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us and to purify us from all of our wrong doing*" (1 John 1:9) - that's rebound. Rebound is required when we've let our sin nature take control of us. "*The flesh wars against the Spirit* [Paul wrote that in Galatians 5:17] *the Spirit wars against the flesh.*" It's an unending battle until we get out of this body and get a resurrection body that will be minus any identification with Adam or Adam's sin nature trend. You will sin, you will fail and you can recover by using rebound - a wonderful problem-solving device. Then there is problem-solving device #2: the filling of the Holy Spirit. This lets you operate in God's plan successfully, not under the energy of the flesh, but under the power of the Holy Spirit. Then there's the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God. Faith perception is one of the most incredible things that we have in our life. We haven't seen Jesus Christ personally, but we believe in Him with faith perception - not empirical data. He has not appeared to me or you. If He has appeared to you, you may need to see a doctor because Christ said He wasn't going to come back until He took us with Him. So if He came back and appeared to you but left the rest of us here, we are in trouble - right? So we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ with faith perception. We haven't seen Him but we believe what the Bible says about Him. Then there's biblical orientation. Learning and orienting

to the Word of God. Staying off the my-way-highway, and going God's way. Then there is you developing a personal sense of destiny (another problem-solving device). As you do that you begin to see why God left you here, what the plan of God for your life is - it's amazing. There's also grace orientation where you orient to the grace of God. His saving grace, living grace, dying grace even surpassing grace in heaven. All of these things are there for you if you learn them. Personal love for God is a wonderful problem-solving device because it is the virtue that we need to obey Him. The Bible says, *"If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard"* (1 John 5:3). Then there's impersonal love for others. People that we don't even like, we are mandated to love those people. This is exactly what God did for you. Before you knew Christ as your Savior, He loved you. How do I know that? *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* (John 3:16). What motivated Him to provide our eternal salvation? His love for His creatures. Then there is sharing the happiness of God. It's a wonderful problem-solving device where you can have +H - God's happiness day by day, moment by moment. And eventually, problem-solving device #10: occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ. Occupation with Christ is critical because now we're letting the mind of Christ flow through us and we are living as a replicant of His life. We replicate Christ's life. So these are the ten unique problem-solving devices. I blew through them quickly. I do have a book called *Christian Problem Solving* that has all of these in detail and it is free. Go to our website rickhughesministries.org and request it. Okay, now we are going back to what we were talking about, criminal arrogance. We got into how a believer deals with the crimes that are committed against him. We used as our illustration Cain who murdered his brother Abel. We got to the point where Cain began to complain that God's punishment was too harsh on him and that he was faced to wander the earth for the rest of his life. Cain complained that somebody would kill him if they found him. The criminal often becomes a coward under God's justice and complains about God's harsh treatment, the harsh treatment of the sheriff, the FBI as too tough, too mean. I gave you an illustration last week of the criminal in the Alabama prison who thought he was tough until he saw the guy on the tractor who was tougher than him. The analogy is that there are people much meaner than you. Here's a principle we want to pick up with now. God knows all of our desires, all of our intentions and the things that motivate us. This is His omniscience. He knows all these things. Listen to 1 John 3:11-12, *"For this is the message that you [that's believers, you and I] heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; [now there is a mandate from God - you and I are to love each other] not as Cain, who was of the wicked one, and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil, and his brother's were righteous."* Remember, Cain brought to God a gift of the fruit of the land that he grew. That was human good, that was him trying to approbate God. Abel did exactly what his parents had taught him to do. He made a blood sacrifice representing the sacrifice of the Lamb. Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, is the Lamb of God. This caused great jealousy in the life of Cain because God accepted Abel's sacrifice but rejected Cain's sacrifice. Some principles: It is hatred among believers that is abnormal. That's what John is trying to warn us about in this passage. We should love one

another. 1 John 3:15, *"Whoever hates his brother is a murderer; [the Bible says] and you should know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."* Hates [the word *miseo*] his brother [or his fellow Christian; we are talking about another believer] is a mental attitude sin of hatred and vindictiveness and implacability. The Bible says he is a murderer and there is no eternal life abiding. This doesn't mean that a murderer cannot be saved. Let me explain this. The word hate (*miseo*) means an inward and unjustified feeling toward another person. Whether that person is innocent or whether he's guilty, you have hatred. Now let's stop. Is there someone in your life that you absolutely hate right now? If so, you need to listen very carefully. No murderer has eternal life abiding in him. Murderer is a compound word: man + to slay. Hatred of some other believer is the spiritual equivalent of murder, Jesus said, just as a lustful eye is the spiritual equivalent of adultery. Do you understand that? Jesus said, *"If you look upon a woman and lust after her you have committed adultery already in your heart"* (Matthew 5:28). **If you hate someone, even though you haven't killed them, you have committed mental murder. The desire is to commit malice, to hurt that person. You see, the real you is what you think. Your spiritual life is lived in your thoughts, in your desires, in your intentions. If you have a desire to commit malice, it is strictly forbidden** in Ephesians 4:31. We will look at it a little later on. The Bible says in 1 Peter 4:15, *"Let none of you suffer as a murderer [talking to Christians] or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters."* This is not telling you that a murderer cannot be saved. This is telling you that mental attitude bitterness and vindictiveness and implacability are equivalent to murder. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, under the filling of the Holy Spirit, you can overcome those desires. You do not have to let your sin nature fire up your emotions to the extent that you want to harm somebody (road rage). There is a better way to live. You live like Christ lived. It starts off with a humility profile. Philippians 2:5-7, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus, who humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation taking on Himself the form of a servant."* The real you needs to be the servant, not the hatred person committing malice. Peter makes it clear, *"Don't suffer as a murderer or as a thief or as an evildoer or as a busybody in other men's matters."* It's interesting that it's all put together there. Peter says you have no right to stick your nose into other people's business. It may be someone that you know personally or it may be a neighbor - stay out of their business. There is a monkey in Africa that has a nose about two feet long called the proboscis monkey. The worst problem you can get into in your life is sticking your nose in someone else's business. God says do not do it. Matthew 7:1-2, *"If you judge, you will be judged. Whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you again."* Do you want to get yourself under divine discipline? Do you want to get yourself into some misery? Judge your neighbor. Judge your friend. Judge your coworker. Go ahead and judge them, stick your nose in. This is God's business. He was in business before you got here. He is the Supreme Court Judge in heaven. He doesn't need you to pronounce sentence on anybody. Don't be a busybody. Don't think like murderers think. Cain was motivated by Satan. Do you know why Satan did it? To try to neutralize him in the angelic conflict and eventually interfere with the line of Jesus Christ who

was going to come through Abel. I'm sure Satan (a.k.a. the devil) thought if he got rid of Abel he could get rid of the line of Christ. In Genesis 3:15 it was predicted and prophesied by God that a Redeemer would come. That was Satan's thinking, get rid of Abel and there won't be any Redeemer. John 8:44, *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you will do."* [this is an unbeliever or even a believer out of fellowship in carnality or perpetual carnality] *He was a murderer from the beginning, [that's Satan who motivated Cain to murder Abel] he does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources; he's a liar and the father of lies."* That's pretty indicative of what Satan is. So when you neglect the Bible, when you throw it aside and you satisfy your appetite with some human viewpoint thinking - 'My friend says it's okay. Other people are doing it. Surely God didn't mean that. Surely God is wrong. Surely the Bible is not really true.' - Well, you're listening to the liar. Satan is laughing at you right now. What a dummy you are. You have in front of you the living Word of God - *"The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit, and the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12) - and you are ignoring it. You are not tapping into the resources. It doesn't fit into your agenda. So if Satan was able to neutralize Cain, he will neutralize you if you allow his influences in your sin nature. By conning Cain into killing Abel, Satan figured it would be over. There was no way a Redeemer could come with the line of the Redeemer out, gone. Satan will neutralize you, if you let him. Satan will influence your sin nature trends if you let your emotions get in the way and get into this vindictive, revenge-motivation thinking - like what happened to Cain. Then you will neutralize your own self. Let me ask you question. What is the clear evidence that you are indeed a Christian? Is there any real clear evidence? I believe there is clear evidence that you are believer and becoming eventually a mature believer. Listen to John 13:34 (this comes straight out of the King James version), *"A new mandate I give to you, that you love one another, as I loved you, that you also love one another."* That's problem-solving device #8: virtue love, impersonal love. It is critical that you take that and you understand that - problem-solving device #7 and #8: personal love for God and impersonal love for others. Listen to John 13:35, *"By this, [by what? by our love for each other] all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* When you have love for one another, when there's no bitterness, no malice, no hatred, no criminal activity of any sort - it's indicative to the world that you are a child of God. I want to tell you, a lot of those disciples were fishermen. They had to wrap their minds around this or Satan would divide and conquer them. If there is anything I can tell you, since I am a fisherman, it's that fishermen don't naturally love each other. Especially in competitive bass fishing where it's all about making money. I don't do competitive bass fishing. It's all about making money, being profitable, so if another boater (man or woman) infringes on a fisherman's territory, he gets angry and protective and bitter. I have done that in my past life. I can remember some things I'm not to proud about. Getting mad at people. What motivates us to be negative like that? When we are negative to God's Word, when we don't reflect that love, one for another, that is proof positive

that we are disciples. Rest assured that what motivates your negative volition, you're not going to hide from God. Even though you may think you're getting away with this deed you won't hide it from God. Cain buried Abel, tried to hide it from God, he thought God wouldn't know it - that was dumb. Principle: (1) **Sin is rejection and rebellion against God.** (2) **The sinner seeks to destroy the godly and vindicate himself and denies responsibility for his own sin.** That's exactly what Cain did. He denied responsibility. God nailed him, 'Where is your brother?' 'What am I, my brother's keeper' Cain mouthed off to God. Can you believe that? 'No,' God said, 'I'll tell you what you did, you murdered him and buried him in the ground and his blood cries out from the ground.' The sinner seeks to destroy the godly and vindicate himself and denies any responsibility for his sin. (3) Cain ignored the concepts of the offering for appreciation of God's blessing. He ignored that. **His parents taught him what to do but he didn't do it.** He performed another deed. Oh he did a right thing, he brought an offering to God. But he did it in the wrong way and the justice of God rejected it because it did not reflect the Redeemer. Abel tried to please God in faith. Cain had no faith, only self-centered arrogance and he could not be persuaded to be obedient. Even when the Lord warned him about this. Can you imagine the Lord speaking to you face-to-face? In Genesis 4:6-7, *"The Lord said to Cain, why are you angry? And why is your expression downcast? Is it not true that if you do what is right, you will be fine? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door and its desire is to dominate you. But you must overrule it."* Cain's negative volition was an indication of who he really belonged to. He had a chance. There's a direct warning from the Lord himself. Cain, sin is knocking at the door, you must overcome it, you must overrule it. In 1 John 3:12, *"not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And why did he kill him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous."* Anyone who has arrogant envy like Cain had is subject to the desires of sin, jealousy and bitterness. Satan will always use the unrighteous to persecute the righteous. **Your rebellion to God and His laws will make you a subject of Satan's plan and his desire to vindicate himself by using you as a sucker.** He may have already done that. You may have dipped your toe into sin and let your sin nature dominate you and Satan is getting a nice round of applause from the demons. See, he has already corralled you, you've already bought into human viewpoint thinking, you've already rejected the Word of God and the faith perception of what is actually true. You might have mouthed off to God as well. Cain did not care what God thought, he justified his murderous deed. But once he got exposed and once the discipline was administered, he complained. 'It's too harsh. This is too much.' A criminal wants a lighter sentence every time, regardless of what he's done, he doesn't want the sentence to be that harsh. 'Twenty years? Why not ten years? Death? No, why not life?' You see, once exposed and the discipline comes from the government or the police or whatever authority, then the criminal always wants a lighter sentence. He didn't treat anybody lightly but he wants to be treated lightly. God graciously protected Cain. I don't understand all of this, but He gave him a sign. God did sentence Cain to wander the earth. *"Whenever you till the ground, it will not yield any strength [your farming days are over, buddy] a fugitive and a wanderer you shall be on the*

earth” (Genesis 4:12). And God put a sign on him that no one could kill him. No one really knows what that was and I’m not going to get into it. But I will tell you this was a lifelong sentence of continual wandering and never feeling at home. Murder lies in the heart of every man in the form of hatred and in the form of bitterness. Note this, there were no prisons, there was no police force at this time. Thus, this sentence that the Lord placed upon Cain was basically a life sentence with no chance of parole. There is a lot more to this narrative than I can teach in this short time but we’ve laid the groundwork for you so that you can see right here criminal thinking in the mind of the arrogant, jealous, bitter, vindictive brother Cain. This should be a warning to you. **You are not allowed, as a Christian, to hate anyone.** You are not allowed to have that desire for malice in your heart, to want to murder someone. In Ephesians 4:31 it says, *“Do not let bitterness rule your life or hatred or implacability or even malice.”* Malice is the desire to hurt someone and you can’t do it. If you have that sort of hatred in your heart, you must confess that sin to God. There may be someone that really shafted you in some way. **You must confess your hatred to God. You must not let Satan use it to manipulate you into doing something stupid. Get control of your emotions, turn it over to the supreme court of heaven that operates 24-7. God the Father will handle the details. No one gets away with anything. But God didn’t send you to be the one who decides what they get away with and what they don’t. He can handle it. Let Him handle it. In other words, keep your nose out of God’s business. You stay in fellowship, you learn His Word, you advance in the plan of God, you grow to replicate the thinking of Christ and live His life through you, through occupation with Christ and then you can be a winner believer in the plan of God. Then you can glorify God to the maximum.** Then you can hear your Father say, *“Well done My good and My faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:21). That’s what He’s looking for. Our Father is looking for a good and a faithful servant. Is that you? I hope so. Next week, same time, same place. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT line.

Criminal Thinking - Part 3

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 719 aired on June 2, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and would like to ask you to stick around for a few minutes. About 28-29 minutes worth of inspiration, some motivation, some education and, as we always say, no manipulation. That's right, we don't con anybody. We are not trying to get money. We are just trying to give you some accurate information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you'd like to orient and adjust, that's good. My job is to simply do that, get it right, give it to you right, beginning with the good news. That's the best news I've heard in my life - that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, redeemed me and you out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God has been paid and we are free from the penalty of death and the power of sin by receiving Christ as our Savior. If you do that, in effect you accept the offering made on your behalf. It's free, no charge whatsoever. That's why the Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift from God; not of works, lest any man should brag about it.*" Paul wrote about it again in Titus 3:5-7, "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He shed on us abundantly through Christ our Lord.*" So it is a wonderful thing to know that you have eternal life. The Bible says in 1 John 5:13, "*These things are written so that you might know that you have eternal life.*" If you are listening to me today and you are not sure of that, you are not absolutely 100% confident that if you died today you would go to heaven, it is the simplest thing in the world to fix. The Bible says, "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Romans 10:13). In the privacy of your own home, in your car, wherever you are, you can simply bow your head and pray and ask God to save you. You can tell God the Father that you believe Jesus Christ is His Son and you are willing to receive His sacrifice on your behalf. Your faith in Christ will be the ticket to heaven for you. That's faith perception. You believe it by faith. The Bible said it, the Holy Spirit revealed it and you believed it. You believe that and the Bible clearly says, "*He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life; but he that believes not, the wrath of God abides on Him already*" (John 3:36). Do you believe that Jesus is the anointed Son of God? Have you accepted His finished work on the cross for you by faith? That means you can't do anything to earn it yourself. You can't do anything to impress God. The Bible says, "*All of our good works are like filthy rags in God's eyes*" (Isaiah 64:6) "*there are none that are righteous, not even one*" (Romans 3:10). There's nothing you can do to gain the approbation of God. Only through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross and the evidence of His own personal resurrection are we guaranteed eternal life. It is a fact, it is true and it is real. I trust you will put your faith in Christ and make that decision. We have been studying on this radio show Christian criminality, the impact of criminality in America today and the impact of criminality in our life. How do we handle it when we are abused by criminals? What's the mindset of a criminal? Why can a person that's a Christian even be a criminal? Are there criminal Christians? The answer is yes. If you are

a criminal can you be saved? The answer is yes. People have sin nature trends. Remember, we all have a sin nature. Every one of us got that from Adam and his original sin passed on to us. *“For by one man sin came into the world, and death by sin, and now death is passed on all, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”* (Romans 5:12). We all have a sin nature. I don't know what your sin nature trend is. Some people have a trend toward lasciviousness, some people have a trend toward power, some people have a trend towards alcohol or drugs, some people have a trend toward money lust. Whatever that lust pattern in your life is, that's what Satan will use to promote your independent thinking of God's plan. Satan will entice you with that until he motivates you to proceed and get as much of it as you can. Particularly in this case we are going to study today we are going to see the lust for money. This comes out of the book of Joshua 6:16-19. This has to do with the battle of Jericho and the battle that followed after that as the Jews went into the promised land. Here it goes. *“At the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, [by the way, let's remind you of this, the Jews walked around the walls of Jericho once a day for six days and on the seventh day, seven times] Joshua said to the people, ‘Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. And the city shall be under the ban, it [that's the city] and all that's in it belongs to the Lord; [listen carefully] only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. But as for you, [listen carefully] only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, so that you do not covet them and take some of the things under the ban, and make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it. [here is a warning: do not take anything out of the city; destroy the city, destroy the inhabitants, all except Rahab and those in her house and do not keep anything; it specifically says] All the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.’”* However, there was a sin committed here. In Joshua 7:1, *“But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regards to the things under the ban, because Achan, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, and the anger of the Lord burned against the sons of Israel.”* This is called national discipline. The United States of America is probably under national discipline today. The way we have rejected the Word of God, the way we have rejected the claims of Christ, the way we have continued down the road of the my-way-highway human viewpoint thinking, trying to come up with some sort of crazy concoction that government can solve the problems of man. We've kicked God out of the public square, we can't even have a nativity scene at Christmas, we can't have a cross on government property, we can't say a prayer in a school. We are out of our minds. What do we think is going to happen? There's trouble here in Israel. Here is what God said, Joshua 7:11-12, *“Israel has sinned, they have transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have stolen and deceived. [Usually a thief when he steals will deceive you. He doesn't want you to know he's a thief. He doesn't want you to know that he has stolen from you. Some of these things go on for years before you find out.] Moreover, they put them among their own things. Therefore, the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. [the Hebrew word means*

they have become appointed for destruction; the Lord went on to say,] *I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst.*” Now they were in trouble. The Lord brought them out of Egypt, the Lord promised the land, the Lord took them through Jericho and now they're up at a city called Ai and big trouble is brewing. My goodness. Who did it? Achan. What did he take? Gold and silver and fine garments from Babylon. And then what do we do about it? Well, Joshua had to get rid of the thief and his family. So here it is exposed. The sinner is exposed. In Joshua 7:19-21, *“Then Joshua said to Achan, ‘My son, I implore you, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and give praise to Him; tell me what you did. Don't hide it for me.’ Achan answered Joshua and said, ‘Truly, you are right, I have sinned against the Lord, [Remember this, when you sin, it's always against the Lord. It's not against me, it's not against your mom or your dad or your neighbor, it's against the Lord. As a believer in Jesus Christ, if you sin you break fellowship with God, you quench the Holy Spirit and you try to live the Christian life in your own energy, in your own flesh, your own production and it doesn't work.] the God of Israel, and this is what I did: [now he owns up, he ponies up] when I saw among the spoils a beautiful mantle from Shinar and I saw 200 shekels of silver and a bar of gold 50 shekels in weight, I coveted them and took them; and they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it.’”* Wow, did he ever mess up. Now the discipline is administered, Joshua 7:24-25, *“Then Joshua and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent and all that he had; and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. And Joshua said, ‘Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day.’ And all Israel stoned them with stones; and burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.”* This might not sit too well with you. Capital punishment might not be something that you agree with, but this was capital punishment. This does not mean God was unjust in His punishment. Fair warning was given in Joshua 1:18. Do not take anything, it all belongs to the Lord. Listen again. *“Whosoever that rebels against the commandments and will not listen to your words in all that you command him, he shall be put to death; only be strong and of good courage.”* There's the warning right there. He was told beforehand, you will die if you take the stuff. This is interesting. Criminals think they can get away with it. They really think that God isn't aware of it. You may have had people steal things from you, from your home, from your family, from your business and they think they got away with it. No, they have not gotten away with it. Nobody gets away with anything in God's plan. It's not to be assumed that this man's children were little babies. Achan was an old man and his children therefore were most likely past the age of accountability. I think what the Bible is insinuating here is the whole family knew what was going on, it wasn't just one man. They were not being put to death because of what their father did. They all were involved in it. His punishment was severe in order to serve as a deterrent for others who might be tempted to similarly sin in the future. I read an article that described it like this: If I tell a lie to my child there is little or no consequences to me. If I tell a lie to my spouse, and I'm caught, the consequences of my sin might be a night of sleeping on the

couch, maybe even a divorce. If I tell a lie to my boss I could be fired. If I tell a lie to the government I could be tried for treason and imprisoned. In each case the sin remains the same, it is simply a lie. But also in each case, the authority of the one whom I offended was greater. The greater the authority offended, the harsher the punishment. Now imagine the offense against a holy God who is infinitely more holy, more powerful than any boss, any spouse, any government official. Put into perspective, this sort of punishment is indeed reasonable. Here's the bottom line. The bottom line is that our sins affect those around us. They affect the people we love the most. The people we love the most experience the most damage as a result of our own personal sins. This is an inescapable principle. Because of the sin of theft that Achan committed 36 men died. You thought it was just something that they stole. No, it resulted in 36 men being put to death in the battle and the whole army being defeated and deflated and fleeing from the scene in fear because the Lord had left them. They were on their own. They went down the my-way-highway, we say. Listen, if you try to stand in the devil's world on your own, you will be defeated every time. Sin puts you on your own. Sin puts you out there in left field by yourself. This is what happened to the whole army of Israel. So this sin of Achan resulted in 36 warriors dying. Joshua 7:5, *"The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent down the hill, so the hearts of the people melted and they became as water."* Total national fear. 'Wait a minute God, we thought that You were going to be with us and we were going to take the promised land. You told us to go now, now what happened God? Look at this, look at everybody's running, 36 men dead, what happened, where are You, Lord?' Sin has put the fire out. Sin has quenched the Holy Spirit. The sin of that one man removed God's blessing from the congregation. Adam and Eve's rebellion destroyed the perfect communion with the whole human race for anybody that could've enjoyed it with God. That sin of one person was the reason that the Lord Jesus Christ had to come (Genesis 3:15). The sin of one person can destroy God's blessing from a congregation in a church. If there's one man in the church committing adultery, if there's one man in that church who is a thief stealing money with a scheme, if there's one man in that church who is a liar - he can defeat the whole congregation. His sin can be a blotch on that whole church. These precious metals were to be added to the treasury of the Lord. When Achan stole them he robbed God directly. That's interesting. God gave Achan a night to consider his sin and come to Him in repentance (Joshua 7:13). But Achan did not avail himself to God's mercy and patience. The gold and the silver that Achan coveted had a stronger pull on his allegiance than his God did. Is it any wonder that in the face of such insult God would choose to destroy him and his family who most likely helped him hide the spoil to start with and were in fact probably an accomplice to the crime? Is it any wonder? How many nights has God given you to consider your acts? I had a friend call me not too long ago and admit a sin, a crime, to me. I was shocked because it was a person that I trusted and had known for a while. The person ponied up and said this is what I've been doing. What have you been doing? That's the question. What have you been trying to hide from God thinking no one knows about it. Maybe none of your friends know about it. Maybe

your wife doesn't know about it. Your husband doesn't know about it. Maybe your kids don't know about it. But God knows. **We fool ourselves and we think our sin affects only us. But this disobedience in the believer's life can bring ruin even upon the innocent. Sins effects go beyond the initial sinner.** Let me say that again. The effect of sin goes beyond the initial sinner. Did you hear that? The effects of sin go beyond the initial sinner. Proverbs 15:27, *"Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates a bribe will live."* The person that called me and admitted to the crime, I cannot even begin to tell you the trouble that came into his household. He's in prison today. It is a sad thing to see - greed overriding the doctrine in a person's soul. That's exactly what Achan did. The faith of Israel was undermined by the effects of this secret compromise. By a single person's deed, 36 people lost their life and this man and his family who stole these things. Just like a single mature believer can bring blessing by association to an organization - and he can - if you have one mature believer working in a company, God can bless that individual and *"his cup runneth over and surely goodness and mercy follows him all the days of his life"* (Psalm 23:5-6). If you can hang around a mature believer, you are going to get some overspill of the blessing. A single mature believer can bring blessing by association to an organization, but on the contrary, a single person's hidden sin can bring trouble to a Christian organization or local church. Like a member who might be involved in a serious crime and thus when it's exposed it brings negative publicity to the church. Achan and his family chose possessions for security rather than trusting in the Lord to meet his need. That's nothing but simple greed. That's all it was. In 1 Corinthians 5:11, *"But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be a fornicator, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or swindler - not even to eat with him."* There it is, Paul lays it right out. Don't hang out with these sorts of people. I'm going to read it again. *"I wrote you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be a fornicator, or greedy, or an idolater, or a slanderer, or a drunkard, or a swindler - don't even eat with him."* Why? Because sin infects and rots like adding leaven to yeast. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 5:6-7, *"Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us."* In Galatians 5:9, *"A little leaven will leaven the whole lump of dough."* In Paul's case, the leaven was the spread of legalism requiring any convert that Paul lead to Christianity to have circumcision if he was a man. This was a demand that the Jewish Christians were putting on Paul's ministry. You need to circumcise these men to follow the law of Moses - that was crazy. Also the thing about baptism was crazy. Paul said, *"I thank God I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius... and the household of Stephanas; if there was anymore, I don't know who they were. God did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of words, that the cross of Christ should be made of no effect"* (1 Corinthians 1:14,16-17). Legalism can leaven the whole deal. The spread of legalism could've destroyed Paul's ministry. And it would affect the next generation and the next generation and convinced them that in order to be saved, they would need to be baptized or even circumcised. That's how

the lie gets started. Paul put that to rest really quick. A little leaven will leaven the whole lump of dough. In the Passover bread no yeast was to be used. The Israelites had to leave Egypt very quickly, they did not have time to allow their bread to rise, so they made it without yeast. God's Word is clear that haste was a factor in the unleavened bread of the first Passover. In Deuteronomy 16:3, "*You shall eat no leavened bread; seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), and that all of the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt.*" So when they have the Passover, they remember their rescue from Egypt, they remember how God delivered them and the quickness that it happened and they do not put yeast in the bread. In the Bible yeast is almost always associated with sin. When there is sin in the camp it spreads throughout the people. It overwhelms them, enslaves them and plants bitter roots and can take over more than just a single person. It can infect the whole community. So in Exodus 12:14-15, "*This day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations celebrate it as a permanent ordinance. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove the leaven from your homes; for whoever eats anything leaven from the first day until the seventh day that person shall be cut off from Israel.*" This is a covenant law called permanent ordinance. It is not to be broken. Just like the commandment of God to Joshua, keep yourselves away from the items I banned so that you don't covet them or take them and bring discipline on your nation. It's the same thing. But Achan did not do that. Carefully obey the Lord your God (Deuteronomy 28:12) and faithfully follow His commands. If you do so, then He will bless you. But (Deuteronomy 28:13) don't do it and then you will have trouble. Always big trouble. The Lord will trouble you. Do everything I am commanding you today never worship other gods never serve other gods. Here is the principle before we wrap it up. **Total obedience is a consistent Bible theme. Even though this was specifically written to a young nation called Israel, it does have application to the Church today. God's blessing on nations and individuals is connected to those who are faithful and obedient to His commands. Fidelity and obedience are essential.** The Bible says, "*Children, obey your parents*" (Ephesians 6:1). The Bible says, "*obey God, not men*" (Acts 5:29) when Peter rebuked the high priest in the council or Sanhedrin after they were put in prison for preaching in the temple. They have to obey God. The Bible says in Hebrews 13:17, "*Obey those in authority over you.*" The Bible says in 1 Peter 1:22, "*Your soul is purified by obedience.*" **Obedience is the principle that God is looking for.** Whatever you may be hiding from God, if you will confess it now, He will be faithful and just to forgive you. You can move on or you can continue to hide it and you will face severe consequences. That's fair warning. I sure hope you've been listening. I'll be back next week. We will continue this message on Christian criminality. We are going to look at David and some things that happened in his life as well. Hope you are learning and I hope you are listening. Write if you have a question. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Criminal Thinking - Part 4

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 720 aired on June 9, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around. It won't be long, just maybe 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education but absolutely no manipulation. That's right, no con game here. We are not trying to sell you anything. We are not trying to solicit anything. We are not asking for any money. It is just simply a talkshow about the Bible to give you some information designed to help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If I'm able to do that, then you certainly have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. The FLOT Line, the show you are listening to now, stands for Forward Line of Troops - FLOT. It's a military term for a main line of resistance in your soul - learning God's problem-solving devices. Ten specific problem-solving devices. If you learn them (this is nothing new, this is not something I discovered, these are age old biblical truths) and understand them and use them, they will stop the outside sources of adversity from ever becoming the inside source of stress. That's why you've heard me say countless times - adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. You need to remember that. The Christian life is a life free of stress. That means no worry, no fear, no guilt - none of that sort of stuff. Not living in hopeless depression and despair. It's a wonderful way to live. It is having the mind of Christ. Thinking like He thought. Living like He lived in the devil's world. God gave you a couple of ends. One of those ends you are sitting on right now and the other one you think with. Success in your life is going to depend on which one of those ends you use. Heads you'll win, tails you'll lose, I promise you. Let's get started. We are studying criminal complications, criminal adversity, criminal thinking in the Bible. If you have ever been through any sort of criminal activity such as having your car stolen, or having your home broken into, or having your checking account fleeced, or having your credit card numbers lifted you can relate. Sometimes it comes from the people you are closest to, people you trust. We've been studying what the Bible says about criminal activity. We've studied a couple of things. We've studied Cain and Abel in the book of Genesis. We've studied Achan in the book of Joshua. Now we are going to take a look at the fall of David, the greatest man (I guess) in the Old Testament. "*A man after God's own heart*" (Acts 13:22). The man that the line of Christ came through, through his son Solomon. David, a phenomenal individual, a man after God's own heart, falls into tremendous temptation. You should read about it. You may find a lot of analogies about your own life in there. You can read about it in 2 Samuel 11:1 through 2 Samuel 12:25. This is the same David that defeated Goliath at the battle with the Philistines. This is the amazing David. The cast of characters in this study include King David, Joab (his servant), a wonderful, amazing individual named Uriah the Hittite, a wonderful lady named Bathsheba (the wife of Uriah) and Nathan (the prophet of God). But the thing to remember as we jump into this study this morning in 2 Samuel 11:27 is "*... the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.*" There is a progressive pattern of sin and cover-up in 2 Samuel 11. That's what the criminal does. Anyone who gets into criminal arrogance always tries to cover it up. They usually do it by self-justification. That's what

arrogance does. Arrogance justifies why it's okay to steal from people, arrogance justifies why it's okay to be deceptive, arrogance justifies why you don't have to admit your guilt. There is a pattern of cover-up even in David's life. It starts in 2 Samuel 11:1, I'll read it to you, *"And it came to pass after the year was ended, at the time when kings go forth to battle, [did you hear that? - when king's go to battle] that David sent Joab [David didn't go, David wasn't at the battle, he sent Joab] and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed [he sent Joab and his servants with him, that's his soldiers] the children of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem."* Here are some principles to remember. (1) This is the first sin in this pattern of cover-up. David was out of the geographical will of God by remaining behind at Fort Zion and not going to battle with Joab. He got out of the geographical will of God. (2) Yes, you definitely can sin by getting out of God's geographical will. Maybe you say you've never heard of that before. (3) There are three categories of the will of God. I'll give them to you under A, B and C. (A) The directive will of God. That's God wants you to stay in fellowship. God wants you to grow in grace. The Bible says, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). The Bible says, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed"* Did you hear that? Twice. Another verse, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). **It is God's directive will that you stay in fellowship with Him by using problem-solving device #1: rebound, and that you grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** (B) The permissive will of God. That's you when you get in carnality. That's you when you commit sin in your life and you fail to confess the sin. God will allow you to get into carnality if you want to do so. You have free will. You have a volition. You can choose to sin. No one manipulates you. No one causes you, forces you. Any sin you commit, you choose to sin. (C) The overruling will of God. This is a wonderful thing. This is where God's wall of fire will protect you. It's a wonderful thing to know that we have that protection. The overruling will of God keeps us alive in the devil's world. The devil is a murderer. He's a killer. He would like to take you out and take me out because we re-present Jesus Christ to our friends and Satan doesn't want that. However, we have ministering spirits, or what we call guardian angels, that guard us, take care of us and protect us. I bet you can think of a few times in your life when you should've been checked out by something stupid you did - but you are still here. God overruled and He kept you here. These three checkpoints of the will of God, which are critical to you and me, keep our life on course and they keep us from sliding into arrogant self-justification. Listen carefully as I give you the three checkpoints. The geographical will of God is the first checkpoint. That means, where does He want me to be? There is definitely a place where God wants you to be. There is a place for you to serve. I think this has to do a lot with a local church. I think God wants you in a local church under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor. If you don't have one in your area, that doesn't mean you can't sit under a pastor. You can do what I do. You can order tapes, you can order DVDs, you can order material and study at home until God shows you where to go. The geographical will of God - where does He want me to be - indicates that there is a specific place God wants you to serve Him. One specific

place He wants you to be. I've seen people pack up and move to a new location so they can get face-to-face teaching from the Word of God. I can name a lot of people that did that. They heard a well-qualified pastor, they thought his ministry was fantastic and they moved to his town so they could go to his church and be a part of his congregation. That's called putting priority number one, one. So the geographical will of God - where does He want me to be? The viewpoint will of God is another checkpoint. This means, what does God want me to think? David was out of the geographical will of God and he definitely wasn't thinking the viewpoint will of God. You will see that in just a minute. Then there's the operational will of God, another checkpoint to keep your life on course. That is, what does He want me to do today or even with the rest of my life? I can say simply He wants you to grow and use your spiritual gift and serve Him and re-present Jesus Christ. This guidance is provided through Scripture. That's how God guides you so you know what His will is. He guides you through Scripture and you must act upon it with faith perception. Faith perception is an amazing thing. Recently my own pastor has been teaching on the subject of faith perception. Noting that the disciples prior to the crucifixion and the resurrection did not have faith perception, they had empirical data. They watched Christ, they talked to Christ, they were with Christ, they could see Him. But then Christ said, 'I'm going to leave. I'm not going to be here anymore. You are going to have to operate by faith now. I'll send the Holy Spirit and He'll help you do that.' And the Holy Spirit did come to the disciples. They did operate by faith. You and I read what those disciples wrote, we read the canon of Scripture, we read the Bible and we operate by faith - on faith perception. We believe it and we act on it. We don't have empirical data. We haven't talked face-to-face with Christ. We haven't talked face-to-face with the disciples, with the apostles. And yet, by faith, we believe what they wrote. So this guidance for us is provided through Scripture and by means of faith perception. That's so we will know the operational will of God. David knew better than to lag behind. **This is a principle you need to remember. Satan will take advantage of your lack of obedience. If he sees you stepping out of the will of God, that's a prime opportunity for Satan to distract you and defeat you.** So listen to how he did it to David. This is the man after God's own heart. This is the man that defeated Goliath on the battlefield when he was just a kid. 2 Samuel 11:2, *"It came to pass in the evening [I guess he had been taking an afternoon nap or something in the heat of the day] that David arose from his bed and he walked upon the roof of his house, and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon."* I don't know if you can call David a peeping Tom or what's going on here. I don't quite understand all that. It's not a sin to see somebody expose themselves, it's a sin to stare in lust. Obviously he was taken by the moment. He was being tempted in the wrong place and he faced unnecessary temptation. Sometimes you will be exposed to things, that doesn't mean that you give in to those things. You may see them and turn away and say, 'No, I'm not going buy into that.' He should have turned away. He should have given her privacy. He should have said, 'Oh my gosh, I don't need to look at that.' He should have said, 'Lady put some clothes on' or whatever - but he didn't. He was in the wrong place and he faced unnecessary temptation. This tells us something about Satan. Satan knew David's weakness. He knew David had a weakness of

the flesh. We all have lust patterns, we all have a weakness, you do and I do. Some people have sex lust like David did here. Some people have power lust like many politicians do today. Some people have lust for money, lust for drugs, lust for alcohol. It comes in a lot of different forms. But you can bet this, the Bible tells you to put on the full armor of God so you can stand against the strategy of the devil. Satan knows your patterns. Satan knows your temptations. Satan knows your weaknesses. If you have a lust pattern, and you get out of the will of God, this is what he will use to manipulate you. So David's strength is now going to be neutralized by him being in carnality. That's the sin nature lust pattern at work. It will neutralize you. It will make you weak. It'll take you out of the plan of God. You've got a sin nature - you got it from Adam. That's why the Bible says, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against the flesh, they are contrary one to the other*" (Galatians 5:17). As a believer in Jesus Christ, you decide who's going to control your life. Either you are going to let God the Holy Spirit take control or you are going to let your sin nature take control. Both are important because if you allow the sin nature to control then Satan will be able to manipulate you to not present Jesus Christ, to shut you up, to counter God's plan and to put you in the battlefield as a casualty. The fact that David followed up on his lust and the fact that he inquired about this woman are indications of his own personal failure. He was already out of the will of God. He was already not at the battle with Joab where he should have been. He was already laying back at the Castle. This woman was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite. You may say who was Uriah? He was a proselyte. Proselyte is noted as a Gentile who converted to Judaism. Uriah's name meant "God is my light." More than likely he was a Judaistic proselyte. He was in David's army fighting for David but he was a Hittite by nature. He was trustworthy and a very honorable servant of David. This leads us to ask a question. Does God find you trustworthy? Does God find you honorable? I know we all violate God's trust sometimes. We all mess up. We all sin. And God is always faithful to forgive us if we use rebound where the Bible says, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us*" (1 John 1:9). But overall in your fidelity, can God trust you? Does He trust you? Trust you to do what? To represent Him personally. You've been left here as an ambassador of the royal family of God. Can God trust you to do that? Can God trust you to act with integrity, tact and honor? To live under the royal family honor code? (I wish I had time to teach it to you. It's an unbelievable study.) Can God trust you? Are you honorable? Can you hear Him say in the future, "Well done My good and My faithful servant?" I hope so. So David now moves into the third stage of his sin. He sends messengers to Bathsheba and he takes her. "He took her" indicates that David made a volitional decision to follow his lust pattern and demanded that she come to him. The question of whether it was voluntary on her part or an assault on his part is between them and God. I don't know the answer. There's no way to know what happened. Was it voluntary or was it forcible? The end result was this, an unwanted pregnancy. You can figure out how that would be handled today in today's world. The big news is coming. He takes her, he has sex with another man's wife (he commits adultery) and the big news is this, the woman sins and tells David I'm with child, I'm pregnant. This is several weeks later. Things are still going on at the battle. David is still back at the fort. So David is going to try desperately to

cover it up. Why would he want to cover it up? Other than the fact that it wasn't his wife. It was another man's wife and that other man was an amazing warrior, an honorable warrior in his army. Why would David seek to cover this sin? Leviticus 20:10, *“And the man who commits adultery with another man's wife, even he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”* That's from the law of Moses - Leviticus 20:10. The thing that David had done and the thing that Bathsheba had done, if she was a willing participant, was worthy of death. David has to cover it up or face the consequences. David schemes to conceal what he did. This is the fourth stage of the sin, the fourth coverup. In 2 Samuel 11:6, the way David progresses in this thing is, David sent to Joab (who is up at the front line) a messenger (no radio communication - somebody runs up maybe four, five, ten, fifteen, twenty miles - I don't know) and the communiqué said to send Uriah the Hittite back to the fort. In 2 Samuel 11:7, we see the phony appearance of virtue on David's part, acting like nothing that happened. Uriah shows up and David says, ‘Now tell me how the battle is going. How is Joab doing? How are the people doing? How is the war going?’ This is a common characteristic of hypocrisy - acting like you care, acting like you are interested. David had no interest in this battle. He had interest in covering up his sin that demanded his death. David planned to cover his adultery by using Uriah. To force him to go home, have sex with his wife and he would think it's his child. In 2 Samuel 11:8, David said to Uriah, ‘Okay thanks for the reports. Great to have you home. Why don't you go down to your house now, wash your feet and go in.’ That means go home, take a bath, cleanup, and maybe we'll have you up for dinner tonight. So Uriah left the king, the Bible says, and the king sent a gift to his house. No doubt it was some wine or something like that, some food. In 2 Samuel 11:9, To the king's surprise, Uriah did not go home. He slept at the door of the king's house with the other troops - the guards. David got word of it. David was upset about it. So the next time David tries to pull a ploy he gets Uriah drunk in order to trick him into going home. But Uriah still slept with David's servants. Uriah would not go home. Here's the principle: Uriah had true integrity and he would not relax while his battlefield buddies were still at war. This should have opened David's eyes to his own failure to lead his troops but it did not. David compounds his sin, one sin piling on top of another sin. Try to get Uriah drunk. Try to make him go home. Try to trick him into going home. Doing everything he can, trying to act like everything is big buddy and everything is fine - knowing that he has impregnated this man's wife. So how does he handle it? Sin number six. In 2 Samuel 11:14, it came to pass in the morning that David wrote a letter to Joab and told Uriah, ‘Here take this letter and deliver it to Joab.’ In the letter were instructions for Joab to expose Uriah to the hottest part of the battle and once there, to pull the troops back and leave Uriah up there alone so he would be killed. This sin made Joab an accessory to murder. So Joab had to make a decision, either he would accept or reject the king's command. Joab sold out Uriah, one of his greatest warriors, at the insistence of King David. How tragic that such a valiant soldier died for David's lust. Sin number seven - David sacrificed other soldiers in order to kill Uriah to cover up his sin. Did you know that? Uriah wasn't the only person killed. The Bible tells us in 2 Samuel 11:24, the report came back from the front lines. The servant said, ‘During the battle the archers shot from

off the wall upon your soldiers and some of them are dead but also is Uriah the Hittite.’ That’s what David wanted to hear. He didn’t care about the other men that were killed. He wasn’t thinking right. He wasn’t caring about their wives and their families and their children. He was only thinking about his own self. That’s what sin does, it gets you so self-centered you just think about yourself. You don’t think about anyone else. David’s sheer pretense and philosophical bull is seen here. Here’s what David says once he gets this news that all the soldiers are dead and even Uriah the Hittite was killed. David said, in 2 Samuel 11:25, ‘Tell Joab not to worry about it since the sword devours one as well as another.’ No big deal. Just a few soldiers died. Just to cover up my sin. In 2 Samuel 11:26, when Bathsheba heard about it, she mourned for her husband. After she was through mourning David sent for her, brought her to his house, married her and they had a son. In 2 Samuel 11:27, this thing did not please God. It displeased Him greatly. You can count on it, when you displease God, divine discipline is about to come knocking. David’s own self-induced misery is evident from divine discipline. He has extreme excruciating pain in his life. Listen to Psalm 38:1-4, *“O Lord, rebuke me not in Your wrath; neither chasing me in Your hot displeasure. For Your arrows stick fast in me, and Your hand presses me greatly.”* Festering guilt became an emotional burden and left him severely depressed and it reflected in his physical demeanor as well. David failed to rebound his sin and was now compounding his discipline. It has been over a year since all this took place. Then David said in Psalm 38:3-4, *“There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my own sin. For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.”* **Here’s a principle you need to remember: if you don’t rebound your sin, divine discipline will either break you or it’ll take you.** David was on his way out under the sin unto death but he FINALLY rebounded. When will you finally confess your sin and get out from underneath your own sentence of death because of your sin in your life? In Psalm 38:18, *“I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin.”* Singular sin. This took a year of God’s heavy discipline - the result is seen in 2 Samuel 12:13-14, *“Nathan said to David, ‘The Lord put away your sin and you won’t die. However, because of what you’ve done you’ve given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme Him. Thus the child who is going to be born to you shall surely die.’”* **Principle: while God forgives sin, He does not necessarily remove the consequences.** Galatians 6:7 says, *“Don’t be deceived, God is not mocked. Whatever man sows, he’s also going to reap.”* Not only did David face the loss of his child, much more came (2 Samuel 12:9-11). Even his own children turned against him. David had many years of discipline. There is a lot more to say. I ran out of time. I hope this makes sense. Are you listening? Is it speaking to you? If so, get with it. Change your ways now while you can. I pray you will. Until next week, this is Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Power of Negative Volition

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 721 aired on June 16, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stick around. I don't know how many years now but it has been 721 Sundays that we have been broadcasting the FLOT Line. If you figure that up, 52 Sundays a year, then you can figure out how many years we've been on the air. What an amazing opportunity and wonderful privilege it's been for me to come into your home, into your car, wherever you are and be able to present the Word of God to you in a way that would challenge you and encourage you to grow in His grace and knowledge. This show is about soul renovation. That has to take place before you can ever renovate your actions. You have to renovate what you think before you ever change what you do. That's why we talk about building a FLOT line in your soul. The FLOT Line, that's the name of the radio show - the FLOT Line. The FLOT line refers to the invisible main line of resistance in your soul. Those ten unique problem-solving devices that stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's why we always say - adversity (of course) is inevitable but stress is optional. That's because adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself. When you learn God's wonderful problem-solving devices and renovate the way that you think, then you can renovate the way that you live. That's why you'll hear me tell you, God gave you two ends. One end you think with the other end you sit on. Success in your life will depend on which one of those you use. It's heads you'll win and tails, well you're going to lose. 2 Peter 3:18 says "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" *Grow* is a verb that means to increase. To increase in your knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That's what we want to talk about a little bit today. You can't increase if you don't hear. If you do increase then you can gain some wisdom. We will get into all of that. It's a great honor to be back with you. Thank you for listening all across the country. I think we are broadcasting now on 27 radio stations from coast to coast as we trust the Lord to provide our needs. He always does that. He's always faithful. He has never let us down. I pray that we've always been faithful and have never let you down. Sometimes those radio stations don't play the show. It's not my fault. We pay them promptly but they have technical difficulties or difficulties with staff. Some stations have missed more than one show. We warn these stations if they miss more than three times we will just shut it down and go to another station. So please, if they're not playing it in your area consistently, you let me know and we will be in touch with them right away. If you ever want additional information, I can always provide you any of the shows on MP3 disc that you can play in your car, play on your computer and you can listen to them at home. You don't have to wait until they come on the radio. If you want to hear, we can provide hundreds of them at a time on one disc. So keep that in mind. We want to talk today about the power of negative volition. Volition is the chooser, the decider in your soul. You know, you got up this morning and you used your volition. You said, 'I think I'll brush my teeth. I think I'll comb my hair. I think I'll put on that shirt, or that dress, or those shoes, or those sandals.' Your volition was at work. You chose. Positive volition is

what we are looking for. People that are positive to the Word of God. Negative volition is what we often find. Negative volition is defined as a refusal to believe the Word of God or refusing to assemble for the teaching of the Word of God. It's very interesting that the disciples immediately after the Resurrection demonstrated some negative volition. When Mary came back and said, 'I've been to the tomb, and He's not there and I saw an angel.' No, that's not possible, the disciples thought, no, it's not possible. Even on the road to Emmaus two men who were going home from Jerusalem back to Emmaus spoke with Him, didn't recognize Him but did not believe the Resurrection had taken place. The Lord had to school them on the Old Testament prophecies. Many did not believe. But it was real. It is real. Jesus Christ is alive today. He is not dead. He walked out of that tomb alive and that guarantees you something. I guarantee you, on the basis of the Word of God, that when you leave this body, as you inevitably will someday, if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be face-to-face with God the Father and you will get a new body, a resurrection body. That's the body that you will live in and serve Him in for all eternity. Keep that in mind, our Lord got a resurrection body and there's one awaiting you. Negative volition - nasty negative volition - is refusal to believe the Word of God or refusing to assemble for the hearing of the Word of God. The first one, refusing to believe the Word of God, is pretty prevalent in our society today because the Word of God comments on a lot of social issues. Yet certain individuals refuse to believe it or, at best, they say the Bible doesn't really mean that. Yes, it does mean that. It's pretty obvious in the laws of marriage and the divine establishment concepts of the family what the Bible teaches. But in today's society there is a challenge to that and a lack of belief in what the Bible teaches - a man and a woman being a husband and a wife and raising a family. So a Christian can refuse to believe what the Word of God says, as can the non-Christian (Christians or non-Christians). Sometimes Christians refuse to assemble for the teaching of the Word of God. They get upset, they get angry, they get mad, they get disillusioned with the local pastor, with a local church and say, 'I'm just not going back.' You might've been there yourself. 'I gave them my money and this is what they did to me?' There is a way to grow if you are not in a local church. There is a way to grow. You can consistently get information by means of MP3 or DVD and you can grow until the Lord shows you where to go. Eventually you must get under a good pastor who will teach you God's Word. We will talk about that. That's one way of having negative volition - not going to church, not being in Bible class, not learning God's Word. **A believer, like you or me, can also exhibit negative volition when we refuse to rebound a known sin.** Remember, sin comes in three categories: something we think, something we say or something that we do. Sin can be a thought. The Bible says, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me;"* (Psalm 66:18) which is a guarantee your prayers will not be answered if you have unconfessed sin in your life. Even mental attitude sins such as jealousy, bitterness, worry, fear - these are all sins. The Bible comments on all of those things. You are not allowed to live under the control of those things. When you fail to rebound your sin (problem-solving device #1), 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to purify us from all wrongdoing."* None of us here listening to my voice can live without confessing our sin to God. We have a sin

nature - we got it from Adam. *"The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh;"* the Bible tells us that in Galatians 5:17. It is a never ending battle. That's why Paul said in Romans 7:15,17, *"I don't understand myself at all because sometimes I want to do the right thing but it's inevitable I do the wrong thing and it's sin in me that causes it."* You and I have a sin nature - we got it from Adam. We are not perfect and our Father knows this and He gave us a way to get cleansed by using rebound - the first problem-solving device we all have to learn. **If the Holy Spirit is quenched in your life by unconfessed sin, then there can be no faith perception and you shut off the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit and you actually grieve Him.** You must live by faith. The disciples, when the Lord Jesus Christ walked among this earth, (I remember my pastor teaching this recently) had empirical data. They watched Him, they saw Him, they talked to Him, they touched Him. Then He left and He said, 'I'm going to go away. I'm going to send the Holy Spirit and He will help you understand. He will guide you.' Then they no longer had empirical data, they had to live by faith. That's the way you and I live. We don't have empirical data. We have a Bible and we accept what's in the Bible by faith. So if we quench the Holy Spirit - the Bible gives us clear instructions on that - then we can't use faith perception. We can't do it. It can't take place because we shut off the spigot. The spigot is the teaching ministry of God the Holy Spirit and we have grieved Him by unconfessed sin in our life. The Bible clearly warns us in Ephesians 4:30, *"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."* That's the day of the exit resurrection in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, *"... and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds ... and thus we shall evermore be with the Lord."* That's the exit resurrection - the day of redemption. To grieve is the present active imperative in the Greek. (I'm giving you this Greek so you'll understand; grieve is the English word, it's translated grieve from the original Greek). The reason I told you it's a present active imperative (that's the morphology of the verb) is I want you to see that it's very important. The present tense is the durative which means there never is a time in the believer's life when he is to grieve the Holy Spirit by not confessing his sin. The active voice says the believer produces the action of that verb and the imperative mood is a command from God through the apostle Paul. So the Greek word in the active voice means we cause the Holy Spirit to be in distress, or to have pain, or to have grief, to be sorrowful - technically we offend Him when we sin. Remember, He lives inside of you. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, *"Don't you know your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit."* God the Holy Spirit lives in you. When you sin you offend the Holy Spirit. The Bible also says in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, *"Quench not the Spirit of God."* Quench is another present active imperative like the last one we just looked at called grieve. This word quench in the Greek is actually kind of a compound word and it means to extinguish or suppress the divine influence the Holy Spirit provides in your life. When you quench Him, it's like a garden hose that you bend in half so the water won't come out. You are holding it in your hand and you've been squirting the flowers, then you want to stop so you bend it and fold it over. There is still water in there but it won't come out. That's what we do when we quench the Spirit of God. We stop the flow of God's divine power in our life. Many believers fall into negative volition by being distracted in

their personal life and becoming vulnerable to Satanic ploys. It's very easy to get distracted. The lure of the world is real. The Bible tells us that the world is out there. The Bible tells us we have three enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil. So when we get distracted by the world, we become vulnerable to Satanic ploy. That's why we are told in Ephesians 6:11-17 to put on the armor of God so that you can stand against the strategy of the devil; put on the helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness all the way down, pick up the shield of faith. The first thing is to control what you think - put on the helmet - control what you think. This is where Satan will attack you - in your mind - he will attack you there. Satan will try to influence the way you think. If he can cause you to have doubt that you are even saved or doubt that you are still going to heaven, then you are pretty ineffective as a witnessing Christian, that's for sure. Any born-again believer, you or me, who becomes negative to God's Word is usually influenced by the Satanic ploy and is operating under some type of emotional revolt. Emotions, we've all got them. I have them really big with football. When football gets on the air I get emotional. When I'm fishing - bass fishing - I get emotional. If I catch a big fish, 'yippee-do, alright, way to go!' Emotions are not designed to guide us through life. That's not what our emotions were given to us for. Our emotions are an appreciator but the Word of God, Bible doctrine, guides us through life with divine viewpoint thinking. And the only way we get it is by faith perception - by listening to the teaching of the Word of God. When Jesus walked on this earth it's pretty obvious they didn't listen to Him when He proclaimed His presence. Many would not believe He was who He said He was. He commented on that in John 8:43, "*Why do you not understand My speech? It's because you cannot hear My words.*" This is what arrogant, self-righteous, legalistic people are like. They don't listen to the message. The reason that these self-righteous, legalistic, arrogant, Sadducees, Pharisees, members of the Sanhedrin - the reason they would not listen to Him is because He was a threat to their power and their control. They did not like it. They wanted Him dead. They wanted Him out of the way. He showed them up. Religion and politics are always about control - always. A divine viewpoint government, which is a wonderful government, is about serving the people, not controlling the people. The government we have today seems to want to offer security in exchange for your freedom. The simple Gospel, the good news, Jesus Christ died for all, offers freedom not enslavement to ritual without reality. That's what religion does - it enslaves you to going through ritual and there's no reality to it. John 8:32 says, "*If you know the truth, the truth will set you free.*" How do I get to know it? Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-29, "*Come to Me, all of you that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke, and learn of Me.*" Listen again, "*study to show yourself approved*" - "*learn of Me*" - "*grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ*" - "*learn of Me.*" Three versus there: study, grow, learn. You can't grow and learn if you don't study. We will talk about that in just a minute. This arrogant, self-righteous, legalistic crowd - they would not listen to Jesus' message because it threatened their power. That's what religion and politics are all about, power and control. That's why the Gospel offers freedom. A government that operates under the four divine institutions (freedom, family, marriage, nationalism) is a wonderful government and you can live free and you can advance and you can have a wonderful life. But when we begin to

do away with freedom, begin to take away the rights of individuals (it could be any number of rights the government would like to take away saying it's a threat) or if you take away the institution of marriage and you take away the institution of the family, then the nation slowly begins to erode from the inside. I think a lot of that has been done and is being done. That's why you've heard me say there is a train wreck coming and I can hear the whistle blowing down the track right now. I think America is headed for a big disaster mainly because we have ignored the truth of the Word of God, we fail to operate on divine establishment principles and it is going to pay bad dividends in the future. Again, John 8:32, "*and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.*" Free from what? Free from the enslavement of the sin nature to start with. **When you accept Christ as Savior, you no longer have to be controlled by your sin nature. Now you have a choice. Now you can let the Holy Spirit control your life. You are free from the punishment of hell. You are no longer going to the Lake of Fire complements of the grace of God. You are free of that. You are free to choose to live in God's power system, God's wonderful plan.** You don't have to live in the cosmic system of the devil's world. You can live here, think a different way and function in God's plan thinking divine viewpoint, not being a slave to human viewpoint and not being a slave to the cosmic system. So how does negative volition actually start? How does it start? How does a person get negative? They fall in love with the wrong thing. Here is what the Bible says in 1 John 2:15-17, "*Do not love the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world will pass away, and the lust of it as well; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*" He who does the will of God abides forever. Okay, then I want to do the will of God. What is the will of God? John 6:40 says it in plain English, "*For this is the will of the One who sent Me, that everyone who sees His Son and believes in Him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up on the last day.*" **The will of God is for you to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. By doing that, you receive Him as your Savior and you are guaranteed an exit resurrection on the last day. You will not be in the Lake of Fire. You will not be sentenced to hell. You will be face-to-face with the Lord.** Now if you don't choose to do that, you can live in the cosmic system - that is the devil's world. It's here. It's floating around. The cosmic influence is everywhere and it's a tactical trap for the enslavement of the human race. It's a factory for the production of losers in life. If that's all you have going for you, if the only thing you have going is the cosmic system, you are a loser in life. You are losing out on opportunity. You are losing out on rewards. You are losing out on the future. You are having to go it alone in the devil's world. Thus, because you have rejected God's Word, you've rejected any opportunity to learn it, know it and apply it in your life, you are living under the law of volitional responsibility which means you are causing your own suffering and your own misery. You are causing it. That's why you have to take responsibility for your decisions - not your husband's, not your children's - you take responsibility for your decisions. You cannot change anybody but yourself. That's a big shocker. You can control you. That's the only person you can control. The Bible says, "*Do not be deceived, God will not be mocked; for whatever a*

man sows, he is going to reap" (Galatians 6:7). This is about you and the decisions that you make. You have the ability to manufacture your own problems. Here is a wonderful thing. Don't forget this. **Man manufactures problems, God manufactures solutions to those problems. Divine solutions are the only solutions.** God has prepared a way for us to live in the devil's world: thinking divine viewpoint, not being trapped in the cosmic system, having the most phenomenal life. The Christian life is a life with no worries, no fear, being able to live without bitterness, without contempt for other people, being able to use impersonal love. He gives us all of those ten problem-solving devices: the faith-rest drill, the filling of the Holy Spirit, grace orientation, biblical orientation, having a personal sense of destiny, having personal love for God as well as impersonal love for others, having a system of happiness in your life - "*My joy*" Jesus said, "*I give to you*" (John 15:11), and occupation with Christ. This is a phenomenal lifestyle and it has to be learned. Most people never learn it. Most people don't even know it's there. Most people just go to church out of a commitment and it's a good commitment. We go to church on Sunday morning and sing Hallelujah, praise the Lord, go home and eat some chicken, that's about the extent of it. They don't consider that there is a whole plan to learn, that there is a system of operation that we live in the devil's world. They never take the time to learn it so they get trapped in the cosmic system and become enslaved. Under the laws of volitional responsibility they create their own misery, their own suffering and they have to take responsibility for those decisions. Galatian 6:7, "*Be not deceived, God will not be mocked; whatever a man sows, he will reap.*" And there's another verse that goes along with it. Colossians 3:25, "*For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of that wrong which he has done, and there is no partiality.*" God is not going to show you any favors. He's not going to let you off the hook and make the other guy pay more. You are going to have to do the same punishment that he does. Discipline is not fun. "*Those whom the Lord loves He disciplines*" Hebrews 12:6 talks about that. Sometimes He has to take us behind the woodshed to get our attention. So how can you guarantee a good, wonderful, full life? Proverbs 2:10-11 says, "*When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul; discretion [or foresight] will protect you, understanding will guard you.*" Guard you and protect you from what? Your biggest enemy is yourself. Proverbs 9:10-12 says, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. You will live longer because of me, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, your wisdom will help you, but if you mock it, you alone will be held responsible.*" Ecclesiastes 9:16 says, "*Wisdom is much better than strength.*" Wisdom is what we are after. Wisdom is what we need. Wisdom is the source of divine viewpoint. It is the source of biblical thinking. There has to be knowledge before there is wisdom. You can't have wisdom without learning it first. Once you get the wisdom then you have foresight and discretion. Sometimes you have to learn things the hard way, but you study God's Word, get under a well-qualified pastor, accept and apply what you hear and learn and grow in grace and knowledge. There is a lot more to say. My time is running out already. I'll come back next Sunday, same time, same place. Until then, thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Lifestyle of Wisdom

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 722 aired on June 23, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around. It's simply a show about motivation, some inspiration some education all done without any type of manipulation. No conning people, no asking for money, not trying to sell anything. Just giving you some information. Hopefully that information will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you can do that and you want to, you can orient and adjust to the plan - that's up to you. My job is to be accurate, to be correct, not to try to coerce you, not to play with your emotions, but to give you legitimate information that God the Holy Spirit can use to convince you of how you need to live your life. We started a study last week called "The Power of Negative Volition" - negative volition. If this is the first time you have ever listened to the show, we call our show the FLOT Line for a reason. FLOT is the Forward Line of Troops. What we are trying to teach here is that there is a tremendous way to live using God's problem-solving devices as a forward line of troops. There are ten of them that we have been able to identify as taught in the Bible. When you learn these, they act like a main line of resistance to stop the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside source of stress. That's why the Christian life is the most unique life in the history of the world because there is no stress, there is no fear, there is no guilt, there is no worry. It's a wonderful way to live but it must be learned. You don't inherit it. You must learn it. You may inherit a fortune from your parents but you do not inherit a spiritual life from your parents. Every person must make their own decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, to accept the good news that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. The good news is that our debt to God has been paid and we are free now from the penalty of sin. You must accept that yourself regardless of what your parents have done. But sometimes, in our own arrogance, we reject that. We don't want to receive Christ as Savior or maybe we did at one time but now we've gotten a lot smarter than that. You think you are smarter, that was something you did when you were a kid, but now you found a better way to live. I'm not trying to be arrogant here, but trying to show you what the Bible says about that sort of thinking. Does the Bible guarantee you a life of good decisions? Can you live a life making good decisions? First of all, no one can make perfect decisions except the Lord Jesus Christ. He was God and man in one body forever. We know He was sinless when He went to the cross as the perfect Lamb of God without spot. Did the disciples always make good decisions? No, they did not. A lot of times they made bad decisions. Eventually they learned and eventually, after the Lord resurrected and ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit came to indwell them. The disciples began to see and things were revealed to them in the Church Age. They understood and they passed that information on to us in the Bible. How can I live a life making good decisions? Proverbs 2:10 tells us this and this is what we want to talk about today - we want to talk about wisdom. I know you think you are a wise person. Maybe many of you are very wise (it doesn't take much to be wiser than me, I promise you). Wisdom is the Biblical word that we are going to look at today. In Proverbs 2:10, "*When wisdom enters*

your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul; then discretion [or foresight] will protect you, and understanding will guard you." Here we have the heart, that's not talking about the organ that pumps blood, that's talking about the invisible part of you - your soul. You have a mind - the Greek word is *nous*. We get Gnosticism or knowledge from that word. **You have a mind and you have a heart. These are in the invisible parts of your soul. The heart is where wisdom is stored. The mind is where wisdom is learned. When you hear the teaching of the Word of God and you learn it, it doesn't do you any good until you apply it into your life.** That's why the Lord Jesus Christ said, "*Happiness belongs to those people that hear my Father's Word and keep it*" (Luke 11:28). When wisdom enters your heart, the objective of your life - let me make this plain to you - **the objective of your life is to get as much Biblical wisdom as you can so you can have foresight and discernment and you will not make bad decisions.** Who is the biggest enemy you face? I think that's pretty obvious. It's you. You are your biggest enemy. So if you are going to learn God's plan for your life, it starts in Proverbs 9:10, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*" So wisdom and understanding are brother and sister there. Listen to Proverbs 9:11-12, "*You will live longer because of me, and years will be added to your life. [because of what? wisdom] If you are wise, your wisdom will help you, but if you mock, you alone will be held responsible.*" There is a divine promise that you can live a long, wonderful, happy, fulfilling life in Christ by learning Biblical wisdom. Ecclesiastes 9:16 says, "*Wisdom is better than strength.*" Actually, wisdom is nothing more than divine viewpoint. Divine viewpoint - that's what the Bible is - it's the source of divine viewpoint. You say, 'Where do you get the word divine viewpoint?' We get it out of Philippians 2:5, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" God wants you to think like His Son thought. The Bible says, "*He humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation*" (Philippians 2:6-8). The personality profile of a mature believer who has wisdom is humility. The reason is, you can't teach an arrogant person anything. Humility, on the other hand, is actually teachable. Humility is teachability. There has to be some knowledge, you have to get knowledge before you can convert the knowledge into wisdom. Without knowledge you can't build wisdom. If we take life's experiences (what you experience in your life every day) and if you add the Word of God to that (divine viewpoint, things that you learn from the Bible), then you come up with wisdom. Then you have wisdom. Then you know what you should do and what you should not do. Sometimes you learn it the hard way. Sometimes you learn it the easy way. It didn't appeal to you, so you didn't try that. Others of you tried it and you got in trouble and your life got in a big jam and now you realize what a mistake that was - 'I didn't listen to the Bible.' Most people don't listen to the Bible and they don't have any wisdom. Wisdom means they have foresight. Wisdom means they have discretion. Sometimes they have to get it the hard way. How does wisdom normally come to us? If you are going to have a lifestyle of wisdom, you get it by studying God's Word under a well-qualified pastor who himself studies and prepares to teach you. I'm not a pastor, I'm an evangelist. I don't pastor a church but I can direct you to where there is a good pastor. Maybe not in your area. I don't know where you live, we broadcast all across America, but there is information available from wonderful pastors who record their

messages and you can tap into them free of charge - not one dime is asked of you. If you do that, you can study at home until God shows you where He wants you to go. You can get your Bible and get a cup of coffee or soda and sit down at your kitchen table or your desk, put in a DVD or an MP3 and study-study-study. I try to do that every day. My pastor has been teaching a series on the life of Christ and we are now over 1000 hours into it. It's available. You can get it. It's free. Many other series, many other studies are free. I know a lot of great pastors that are teaching the Bible. You might not live in their city but you can access their information. Let me know. We will help you if we can. If you want to have foresight and discretion, you have to start with wisdom, you have to start with studying God's Word, then you have to apply what you accept as truth. If you accept it as truth and you learned it, then you have to apply it. That is, if you are learning anything. This is where one of the big problems is. A lot of people are not learning anything even though the Bible tells you, "*Study to show yourself approved unto God a workman that need not to be ashamed*" (2 Timothy 2:15). Even though the Bible tells you, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18) - you don't do it. You are too busy. Your lifestyle is too cluttered. You don't have time to sit down and listen to a DVD or an MP3. You go for the easy course. You go to the bookstore and buy a little daily devotional book and you read a little devotion every morning, a little five-minute devotion. That's how you are going to grow? I don't think so. If you only go to the first-grade five minutes a day, you are not going to get very far. A lot of Christians really, quite frankly, never get out of the first-grade. Hebrews 5:12 says, "*You have been saved a long time now and you ought to be teaching others, but instead you've gone back to where you need to learn the basics of God all over again.*" Whoever wrote that said, 'I'd like to give you some steak but you can't handle steak. I have to give you *pabulum*. I have to give you baby food.' This is true of a lot of believers because they will not take time to learn the protocol plan of God. They are satisfied living a life of ritual that has no reality to it. They're not going to take time so they're never going to have wisdom. They're never going to have divine viewpoint accumulated from that wisdom and so eventually their life is sort of like a ship at sea without a compass. They are just adrift. They don't know where they're going. They don't know what they are supposed to do. They call the preacher and say, 'Preacher, what should I do?' Or they call a friend, 'What would you do if you were me?' That's always trouble. Listen to the words of wisdom from the Bible. Proverbs 1:22, "*How long will you simple one's love simplicity...*" Simplicity - this the problem. People don't want to learn. They don't want to learn God's Word. They don't want to take time to sit down, get a Bible, get a notebook, study and grow. 'It's too complicated,' they say. 'I like the simple stuff. I like going to church on Sunday morning.' Many people feel that way. I have a slang term for that, - I call it the nod to God crowd. 'Hello God. See you next Sunday God. Thanks for the little message God.' That's not growing. That's not advancing in the spiritual life. "*How long will you simple one's love simplicity? And how long will the scoffer delight in their scoffing, and fools continue to hate knowledge?*" (Proverbs 1:22). Hate knowledge. I hated English, I hated chemistry, I hated French - all the stuff in high school - I didn't want it. I wanted to play football and chase girls. That was fun for me. I didn't take time to study and, of course, that all reflected

itself in my scholarship applications, SAT and ACT scores. I barely got in, by the skin of my teeth, into the University of Alabama. I didn't learn. I didn't try to learn. It wasn't that I was stupid. I was just dumb. Stupid means you don't have a lot of brains. Dumb means you have them, you are just not using them. Some Christians are like this. You've got the brains to learn this stuff, but until you learn the protocol plan of God, you will never be able to execute God's plan effectively in your life. You must not scoff at knowledge. You must not hate knowledge. You must not say, 'Well, it's too complicated,' or 'That's too deep for me, preacher.' It's not too deep for you. You must grow. You must decide in your life you are going to learn God's plan and get some wisdom. Why? So you don't make a mess of your life. I can't tell you how many people I know that have made a total mess out of their life because they reject the Word of God and learning the Word of God. Even if they know it, they won't apply it. Proverbs 1:7, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; but fools despise wisdom and instruction."* You are not a fool are you? You are not one of these people who says, 'I despise wisdom. I despise instruction. I'm not going to let anybody tell me how to live my life.' Well then just dance on down the my-way-highway. That's what you are doing any how. By the way, look behind you at the wrecks you are causing. Look at the misery that you are living in because you don't want to learn. You believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh yeah, you've accepted Christ as your Savior. But you don't want to learn God's plan nor submit to God's plan. Proverbs 3:5-6, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."* Is He directing your path? I don't call the my-way-highway to be Him directing your path. I call that letting your emotions dictate policy to where you want to go and what you want to do and then saying those famous words, 'Well I prayed about it.' Most of the time that prayer never got above the ceiling because you had unconfessed sin in your life. Acquiring Biblical wisdom is you storing up an inventory of divine ideas. You storing up an inventory of divine viewpoint starting with you facing your own trends, your own arrogant trends: self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption - you facing these things. Until you start to face that, you'll never have any real humility in your life. In arrogance you say, 'I'm going to do it my way. I don't care what the Bible says.' I've seen that. I've done that myself and much to my sorrowfulness it's the most stupid thing I've done. 'The Bible says don't do that but I'm going to do it anyhow.' You have been there too, haven't you? It is sad to watch people who are destroying their lives, who are living miserable lives, wondering why nothing works, nothing comes together, nothing fits. They are always butting their head against the wall. They are believers, they have accepted Christ as their Savior but they will not learn the Word of God nor follow God's advice. Proverbs 10:8, *"The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a foolish talking fool will fall headfirst."* This is a warning to you. You are on track to destroy yourself. You have the ability to destroy your life. You have the ability to mess up the lives of your friends too. You have to learn this. You are in trouble if you are not careful. The wise in heart will receive commandments, but a fool does not listen to the teaching of the Word of God. Principle: **(1) If you are wise then your wisdom will deliver you but if you are a mocker you alone will suffer. (2) Without humility in your life you will never orient to God's gracious wisdom in**

your life. I'm going to give it to you again, Proverbs 10:8, "*The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a foolish talking fool will fall headfirst.*" Principle: (1) If you are wise, your wisdom will deliver you and if you are a mocker you alone will suffer. (2) Without humility you will never orient to God's gracious wisdom for your life. The Greek word for wisdom is *sophia* and the Hebrew equivalent is *chokmah*. They both mean the ability to relate the Word of God that is in your soul to life. If you've learned it and believed it and processed it and applied it and related it to what's in your life with discernment and understanding - that's wisdom. It is the ability to deal sagaciously, the ability to have good judgment, good discernment, to deal sagaciously with life from accumulated facts that are found in the Bible - especially in regard to the Church. You are in the Church. You are in the mystery doctrine of the Church Age. The assets you have are much greater than any of the Old Testament saints' assets. They didn't have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. They didn't have the canon of Scripture. They didn't have a qualified pastor with the spiritual gift. They didn't have any of that. Look at what you have. Look what you have done. Nothing. Artificial intelligence is false wisdom. We call it AI, artificial intelligence - false wisdom. It's arrogance and lack of humility. Artificial intelligence is arrogance and human viewpoint. Those two things come together and they create cosmic thinking. This is what Satan uses to lure the world into the good times, into the cosmic vortex. Satan says, 'Come over here. This is where the fun is. Oh yes, if you try this you will be fulfilled. If you try this you will be happy.' Then they get trapped and they get hooked and they stay in the cosmic vortex until they destroy their life. Artificial intelligence is false wisdom, human viewpoint, cosmic thinking. Why is God's wisdom so essential to you? Why must you learn it? Because it is not relative, it is absolute. It will give you the discernment to make the necessary adjustments in your life when circumstances change. It gives you the ability to make necessary adjustments in your life when circumstances change. **The wisdom of God is never relative. It is always absolute. It doesn't change. You change.** When you associate, for example, with an individual who has acquired a maximum amount of Biblical wisdom then you can have blessing by association. That's a promise. Whenever a nation, such as America, ignores Biblical wisdom and substitutes some sort of relative wisdom from human viewpoint then it's just a matter of time before self-destruction comes to that nation. Without national humility there is no teachability. That's why nations get wake-up calls from disasters from time to time. God's trying to wake people up. But the desire to seek the Lord only seems to last a short time until prosperity takes back over or until time erases the memory of the pain. I remember 9/11 and what happened on that horrible day when we were attacked in New York City and the World Trade Towers were hit by airplanes. I remember speaking in a church that night and how many people came wanting to know what was happening, what God was saying, what was going on. In about three weeks you couldn't find a person. It went from 200 to 20. They forgot about it. They went on back to their lifestyle. It didn't keep their attention. What does God have to do to get your attention? How far down do you have to go before you are going to wake up and say, 'I have really screwed this thing up. I have messed this life up.' When are you going to get God's wisdom that is so essential to you? Whenever a nation like America ignores it, we are in trouble. There can be no

teachability without humility. You must exercise your own positive volition toward the Word of God which has been taught. If you believe the Word of God which has been taught then you can metabolize what you have learned. You can put it to work in your life. Like food, metabolize it. Once you believe it, it is transferred by the Holy Spirit to the right lobe of your soul - your heart. In your heart, once the Word of God takes root in your heart, once it begins to circulate around by means of the Holy Spirit, you have a word treasure. You have spiritual value in your life. Once the Word of God circulates throughout your frame of reference, your memory center, your vocabulary, your categorical storage, your conscience - when it gets in there. it begins to remove the garbage from your subconscious, the scar tissue, ways that you messed up, doubts, guilt - all is removed. Confidence in God's plan for you is a wonderful way to live. Proverbs 13:10, *"Arrogance only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice."* Are you going to take my advice today? This is taking advice by learning and applying the Word of God to your experience. You are listening aren't you? Are you going to take my advice or do you think I'm nuts? Listen, if you hang out with fools who reject Biblical wisdom you are going to get killed. That's just the way it's going to happen. If you continue to hang out with fools, you are going to get killed. Proverbs 13:20, *"He who walks with wise men will be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."* Do you want to hang out with somebody? Hang out with somebody who has some Biblical wisdom, not somebody that operates on human viewpoint, not somebody that's a user and an abuser, not somebody that's arrogant and self-justifies why they do what they do. If you are hanging around somebody like that, listen to Proverbs 14:7, *"Go from the presence of a fool when you perceive not in him the lips of knowledge."* He doesn't understand the Word God. He doesn't care about the Word. He only cares about what he wants to do even though the Bible says it's wrong, even though the Bible says it's a sin, even though the Bible says it can destroy a nation. He doesn't care. He is just going to use you to fulfill his own desires. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, had to acquire His own Biblical wisdom. The Bible says He did in Luke 2:52, *"Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man."* Paul the apostle availed himself to the wisdom of God. Listen to 1 Corinthians 2:4, *"My doctrine and my preaching were not in persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of the power of God."* Wisdom is the highest form of happiness that can ever exist. It is the sum total of the teaching of the Word of God under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit and you responding to it and applying it in your life. Then you can have the same life our Lord had, based on humility, fulfilling the plan of God - a wonderful life. Wisdom is what you need. Wisdom must be acquired, it's not going to be inherited. There is only one way to get it - *"Study to show yourself approved to God"* (2 Timothy 2:15) - then you must apply it. I hope you have listened and are learning. Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Are You Trustworthy

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 723 aired on June 30, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like you to stick around. It will be a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and always done without any type of manipulation. We don't hustle money. We are not trying to sell you anything. We are not trying to ask you to join anything. We just ask you to listen as we discuss the Word of God and hopefully verify and identify God's plan for your life. If you want to do something about it then you can orient and adjust to the plan. You can count on it, at the FLOT Line you are always going to get accurate, in-depth, crucial information for your life with application that will help you understand what the Word of God is teaching you. It all starts with the decision to believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior. It's a decision that everyone must make, must choose. The Bible says, "*What think ye of Christ?*" (Matthew 22:42). We know that He paid for our penalty. We know the anointed Son of God redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. We know what He did on the cross. We know that our debt to God has been paid and we are free of the penalty of death and the power of sin in our life if we receive Him as our Savior. That's a big if. There has to come a time in your life when you make that single significant decision. The Bible says, "*For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not of works, lest any man should boast*" (Ephesians 2:8-9). I did that when I was twenty-two. I got on my knees and prayed and asked God to save me. I didn't realize what was going on, I didn't realize what was going to happen, I didn't feel weird, I didn't see any angels, I didn't hear any harps - but my life changed. As I grew, as I learned God's Word and began to move forward in my new life in Christ, a whole new life opened up. It's for you too. Everyone has to make that decision. Don't put it off. Don't live like you have a guaranteed contract to be here tomorrow because you don't have a contract. The Bible clearly says, "*It is appointed for man to die once and after that the judgment*" (Hebrews 9:27). I want to talk to you today about being a trustworthy believer. This concept of being trustworthy is an important thing today in our country, in our families, in our homes - being trustworthy. In 2 Samuel 11:2-27 we have a record of the history of King David's failure. It's really hard to study the failure of such a great man as David because he was a man of courage and a man of leadership from his youth. We know about his battle with Goliath. We know about the Philistine giant. We know about David's struggles with King Saul. Saul was jealous of David, jealous of his deed and wanted to kill him. We know how David took care of Goliath with a slingshot and a rock. We understand all of that. We understand how he became king. But what we will now see is not indicative of that lifestyle. It really was David at the lowest point in his life. What I would like for you to understand is that each one of us, myself included, we are all one decision away from ruining our lives as well as those around us. My travel partner has a prison ministry and he can tell you a lot of stories about a lot of great man who made one bad decision and wound up incarcerated - for one stupid decision. The Bible tells you, "*Do not be unwise, but understand what is the will of God*" (Ephesian 5:17). That's another

way of saying don't be stupid. Don't buy into the world's system of thinking. Don't go down the my-way-highway. When we allow arrogance to take over our decision making process then we always open ourselves up to sin and failure. Arrogance is self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption and it always leads to self-destruction. It's easy to justify sin and easy to justify what's wrong by lying to yourself and becoming absorbed in whatever it is you want to do. That's what arrogance does. The Bible clearly says in Romans 12:3, "*Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think [unrealistic self-image] but think in terms of humility, as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His word.*" In Philippians 2:5,8 the Bible tells us, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus who humbled Himself.*" Humility, the humility profile, is key. To be trustworthy you must have a humility profile. Usually the reason that we open ourselves up to sin and failure is self-justification. When you justify what you want to do, even though you may be a Christian, you remove all Biblical or even establishment boundaries in your life. Marriage, family, freedom nationalism are establishment principles taught in the Bible. And a person who is not even a Christian can have a wonderful life of establishment if he follows those principles. But when we justify what's wrong and the emotion of arrogance removes Biblical or establishment boundaries then we actually wind up creating some sort of vacuum in our soul. No matter who you are, no matter who you have been in the past, when you start thinking under arrogance it will change you. What do I mean by that? I mean you become self-centered. You'll disregard what you know is actually the truth and you will believe the lie about yourself. You will deceive yourself. You have an unrealistic self-image and that will give you unrealistic expectations. King David, whom we are going to look at here for a minute, had many past victories in his life but on this particular day he would wind up destroying his reputation and bringing at least forty years of discipline upon himself for the actions he did. Listen to what Nathan, the prophet, told David as a result of the sin. In 2 Samuel 12:10-12, "*Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despise Me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.*' *This is what the Lord says, [this is coming from Nathan] 'Out of your own household I'm going to bring calamity on you, and before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to the ones who are close to you, and he will sleep with your wife in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all of Israel.'*" For forty years after the sin David committed, he had a struggle with his family, a revolution with his family. Exactly what God said would happen did happen. The sin that I'm talking about at David's low point in life is the sin of taking Uriah the Hittite's wife. He took her by force and impregnated her. You can read about it in 2 Samuel 11. He was on the roof of Fort Zion looking around, saw this beautiful lady and demanded that she be brought to him. She was the wife of Uriah the Hittite. What I want you to see is that in order to cover his sin, he eventually had Uriah killed in combat with the help of Joab, his commander. I want you to understand what caliber of man Uriah was. It's not the failure of David that we are talking about here, it is the quality of Uriah's life that must be noted. Uriah was a Jewish proselyte. He must have known something was up because there was no reason for the king to call him back to Fort Zion for a situation report. This is what happened once David discovered

Bathsheba was pregnant. Here's another man's wife that he has impregnated and now he's trying to get Uriah to come home, trying to induce him to go to his house, sleep with his wife before he goes back to the combat field. This is not someone that should be back giving a situation report. This is a warrior. This is a fighter. This is a ground pounder. It should've been someone else giving the situation report, and so Uriah knew something was up. There was no reason for the king to call him back. In fact, I suspect Uriah realized David was trying to get him to go home because he steadfastly refused to go home. He wouldn't do it. David even tried to get him drunk, got him intoxicated so he would go home to Bathsheba and not remember what happened that night. But he would not go home. He said, 'I'm not going back and sleep with my wife in my bed when my comrades are bivouacked in the field on the ground in tents. I'm not going to do that.' That was the tremendous trustworthiness of Uriah the Hittite. The tremendous integrity and courage of Uriah the Hittite. This is what I want to talk to you about in this narrative - what kind of man Uriah was. Not what David was. We know what David was. In the end, Uriah actually had to carry his own death warrant back to Joab as it was written by David. Here's the interesting thing, David said, 'Take this back to Joab. Let Joab see it.' It was a command to put Uriah upfront in the hottest part of the battle and then to fallback and leave him alone and let him be killed. Then they would obviously give him a hero's welcome and talk about what a great man he was even though he lost his life. It was all a sham. But Uriah, even though he was carrying his own death warrant back to Joab, never looked at it. He never peeked at the orders. That's because he was trustworthy. **Trustworthy is a very important word that God expects out of you - to be trustworthy.** Let's focus on what that word means, what it means to be a trustworthy believer. Synonyms include: reliable, dependable, honest, full of integrity, worthy of trust, honorable, upright, principled, true, truthful, as good as your word, ethical, virtuous, incorruptible, unimpeachable, above suspicion. That was Uriah. He was indeed trustworthy. **There are two essential attributes that you and I need to consider if you are to be trustworthy.** I don't know about you but I would like to be a trustworthy believer. I'd like to be able for God to trust me and I know you would like to be trustworthy as well. **Those two essential attitudes are faithfulness and reliability.** The trustworthy believer always walks by faith and not by sight. In 2 Corinthians 5:7, "*we live by faith, not by sight.*" In the Old Testament, Habakkuk 2:4 says, "*the just shall live by faith.*" What exactly does it mean when the apostles in the New Testament said to the Lord Jesus Christ, "*Increase our faith*" (Luke 17:5). The first thing you have to understand is, faith is not a gift someone gives you. You can't say, 'My parents were people of faith so I am a person of faith. I inherited their faith.' That's not true. Faith must be learned. It's not a train trying to go over the mountaintop saying, 'I think I can' (you know, the little choo-choo). **Faith is an attitude that is learned. It is confidence in God's Word. You have to know the Word of God to develop faith.** That's why we have the mandate in the Bible to "*grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). If you are going to be trustworthy, you must be faithful. Faithful means you have muscle in your soul. There are over 7,000 promises found in the Bible for the believer and they are all yours to claim by faith. Do you have the courage and the dependability and reliability to stand on those? Do you remember

when the Jews had left Egypt? They were fleeing from the Pharaoh who wanted to kill them and they came to the Red Sea and about panicked because the Red Sea was in front of them and Pharaoh and his army were behind them. Moses said these words: *“Stand still and watch what God is about to”* (Exodus 14:13). That's what faith does. Faith has confidence. Faith does not flee. Faith stands firm in the promises of the Word of God. What an amazing thing faith is. Here's something I don't think you've heard before. Faith gives you the ability to see the unseen. Remember, we live in the devil's world. Remember, he has a strategy toward you - we are told to *“put on the armor of God so we can stand against the strategy of the devil”* (Ephesians 6:11). Satan has a strategy about you and he knows how to defeat you and how to distract you. We've seen that in David's life when he was out of God's will. He should have been on the battlefield with Joab and the troops but he was still back at the fort. He was out of the will of God, out of the geographical will of God. When we sin, we open ourselves up and we become vulnerable to defeat and distraction. When we live by faith we can see the unseen, called the angelic conflict. The Word of God teaches us all about it. We know what's going on in the unseen world. But when you develop faith, which is the Word of God, you learn it and apply it, it's called in the Bible - wisdom. Wisdom is understanding and discernment. When you have understanding and discernment you have the ability to see what's good for you and what's not good for you. In other words, you can see the unseen trap Satan may be laying - the trap to discourage you, the trap to distract you, the trap to defeat you. Faith lets you see through the devil's smokescreen because you are standing on the Word of God. But if you don't develop faith in your life, then what you essentially do is walk blindly through the devil's world. You are like a man with a blindfold on and you are trying to make your way through the devil's world. You are a child of God but here you go with no Word of God, no divine viewpoint, you don't have the mind of Christ, you are not getting any doctrine on a daily basis, you are not studying the Bible daily, you are not developing your faith and so you are just walking blindly in the devil's world. You are a sucker. You are setting yourself up for defeat. You are setting yourself up for failure. God has given you unique problem-solving devices and you don't even know what they are. You've never even taken the time to learn them and use them. You are going to wind up being a loser believer. You are going to lose out in eternity. You are not going to have the rewards you could have had. You are not going to glorify God to the maximum. Why? Because you walk through this world blind. You are too distracted. You are too interested in something else to even take time to learn God's Word. That's what this show is always about - I'm looking for those of you that are hungry. I'm looking for those of you that would tell me, 'Rick, I want to learn God's Word more than anything else. Please tell me how to do it.' I can help you. I can show you how to get into a serious study of the Word of God at home, around your kitchen table or your desk, listening to well-qualified pastors teach you the Bible. This is how you grow. It's imperative. But if you don't have a developed faith, if you are not trustworthy, God can't trust you. I hate to say this, but if you are a parent and you have children and you are not preparing your children for the battle in the devil's world, you are abusing your children. That's right, spiritually abusing them. You are going to send them into the devil's world. You know it's out there, you know the zeitgeist or the spirit of the times is

swirling around like a cosmic vortex and you're going to tell your kids, 'Good luck, give it your best shot, dream your dreams.' That's all human viewpoint garbage. The Bible says God's plans for you are bigger than any dreams you could ever dream. It's amazing that people will just tell their kids, 'Take your best shot, dream your dream, go for it kid, you can do it.' That's not what the Bible teaches. It's abusing a child not to prepare them for the devil's world. They will fall into the trap of religion, organized religion, thinking that they're going to heaven because they don't smoke, or don't drink, or don't cuss, or don't cheat on their taxes, or some sort of other good deeds. The Bible says, "*Not by works of righteousness are we saved [that's not how we get it] but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord, being justified by His grace and made heirs according to the hope of eternal life*" (Titus 3:5-7). We have to prepare. You must prepare not to walk in the devil's world blindly. That's not being trustworthy. God can't trust you. What did God give you? What did He entrust to you? I hope you have one close by - it's the Bible. He entrusted to you the Bible. He also indwells you with the Holy Spirit. He told you don't grieve the Holy Spirit and don't quench the Holy Spirit because His job is to explain the Bible, to guide you in all truth. This is what Jesus said, 'I'm leaving guys. I've been here, I've been teaching you but now I'm going back to my Father. I'm going to send the Holy Spirit and He now will teach you. You are going to have to learn by faith. No more empirical data. No more Me. No more walking around watching Me do it, listening to Me say it. I won't be here. The Holy Spirit is now going to say it and that is going to require faith.' So faith is critical. It's nothing other than trustworthiness. It's interesting to note that the Scripture says that a morally degenerate person is untrustworthy. You can read those passages in Romans 1:20-31 and see what I'm talking about - untrustworthy is used. In the passage that we have been studying, 2 Samuel 11 and 12, David was untrustworthy with Uriah's wife. Maybe Uriah could have trusted David with his money and with his household items but not with his wife. She was too beautiful and David was too weak in the wrong place doing the wrong thing - lusting. Uriah had more honor and more dependability than King David did at that point in his life. The Bible talks about perseverance. Perseverance is a trait of being trustworthy. Being consistent, persevering, is very important in your life. In 2 Thessalonians 1:4 Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica about their perseverance and about how he trusted them. Paul said, "*we speak proudly of your perseverance and your faith [their trustworthiness] in the midst of all of your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.*" Each of us will go through affliction and persecution. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "*Think it not strange these things that happened to you as if it hadn't happened to other people, it has.*" It's all for a reason. God must test your faith to see if He can trust you. That's what He does. He will test your faith to see if He can trust you. Will you panic? Will you let your emotions take over? Will you get arrogant, get mad and justify a wrong deed? How will you handle it? What will you do? What's going on in your life right now that requires complete faith because you cannot solve that problem at all? You are in a jam and you want to know how to do it. God is waiting to see if He can trust you. Trust you for what? Can He trust you to trust Him? "*He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you, I will never forsake you'*" (Hebrews 13:5). The Bible is

clear about never having seen the righteous suffer - it's clear. Do you trust God? He hasn't thrown you under the bus. He hasn't abandoned you. He hasn't forgotten you. Regardless of where you live Jesus Christ lives in you. God the Holy Spirit lives in you. God the Father lives in you. And you have His word *"alive and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword"* (Hebrews 4:12). So you have to learn the Word of God to develop your faith and be trustworthy. The faith-rest drill is problem-solving device #3 in the FLOT line of your soul. Problem-solving device #1 is rebound. *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and purify us from all of our wrongdoing"* (1 John 1:9). There never is a time in your life when you can ignore that because you are going to sin. Whether it's a mental attitude sin or a sin of the tongue or even an overt sin, you will sin, you will fail. You might not fail like David but you will fail. And when that happens, you must confess your sin to God. You can't put it off like David did for over a year. He knew what he had done was wrong but he put it off. He repressed the memory of it until Nathan showed up and nailed him with it. Nathan told David, 'Okay, now you confessed it, you are not going to die but you are going to have forty years of discipline.' The filling of the Holy Spirit is problem-solving device #2 on the FLOT line of your soul. That takes the place of the sin nature. You can live under the control of the sin nature or you can live under the control of the Holy Spirit, it's up to you. The faith-rest drill is problem-solving device #3. It allows you to stand in the face of adversity. That's why the book of Ephesians tells us to pick up the shield of faith. This shield is the antidote for doubt which is failure to trust. When you doubt God you are failing to trust. Faith is the antidote to doubt. If you are untrustworthy then you are going to fail. You are going to fail your Father and fail what He has asked you to do. You can fail by not growing spiritually as Hebrews 5:12 said, *"You have been saved a long time now and you ought to be teaching others, but instead you've gone back to where someone has to teach you again the very first principles of the Word of God."* That's a failure. Or you can fail by committing sin and not confessing the sin as David did. So does God find you trustworthy? That's the question I want to ask you. Or are you like David who threw his best warrior under the bus in order to cover his sin? If you want to know why David did that, why David would plot to get Uriah killed, listen to this verse in Leviticus 20:10, *"And the man who commits adultery with another man's wife, even he that commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death."* David was under a death contract in the Mosaic Law for what he did and Uriah had every right to come back and prosecute David for adultery. So David had him killed to cover his own sin. The one thing you need to remember today is you cannot cover your sin from God. You might hide it from your neighbor, you may hide it from your wife, but you will never hide it from God. Are you trustworthy? That's my question for you today. I appreciate you listening. I pray and hope you will come back next week - same time, same place. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Sin

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Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. FLOT stands for the Forward Line of Troops. What we are trying to do on this show is to give you information from the Word of God that will allow you to set up a main line of resistance in your soul so you can stop the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside source of stress. God has wonderful problem-solving devices in the Scripture. If you learn them and apply them in your life and use them it's called wisdom. Wisdom gives you discernment and understanding so that you can save yourself a lot of misery. The FLOT Line comes on this station every Sunday morning to give you this information and help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. You can orient and adjust to the plan if you'd like. Our job is to give you these Biblical truths. Remember, God gave you two ends. One of those ends you sit on and one of them you think with. Success in your life will depend on which one you use. Heads you win and tails you lose. Heads you win - what does that mean? *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). That's your head. That's the part of your soul called your mentality and that's where your spiritual life is lived. You are what you think, not what you think you are. In Proverbs 23:7, *"As a man thinks in his heart, so he is."* The real you is the sum total of your thoughts, your intentions and your desires. That's the amazing thing about our wonderful God. In His omnipotence, omnipresence and omniscience, He can look right into your soul and see what you are thinking. Please pay attention today to the things that we say. We broadcast this show on 27 stations across America and we do it by faith. We know that if God is in it He'll pay for it, if not we'll go do something else. It's always a wonderful thing not to beg for money, not to ask people for money, but to trust the Lord to supply your needs. He always has and always will because He is faithful and just never to let us down. So with that in mind, we have a lot of things we can offer you, like books that we've written, including: *Understanding Your Soul* and *Practicing Your Christianity* and *Christian Problem Solving* and *A Divine Pardon*. All of our books are free and you can get them by contacting us through our website at rickhughesministries.org. There you can find all of our radio shows which you can listen to online if you'd like to. We can also provide you with MP3s of the various radio shows going as far back as the very first one (over 700 shows ago). Today I want to talk to you about something that you've heard mentioned before. You've probably heard it preached before from the pulpit of your local church - the three letter word - SIN. There are a lot of people that don't understand sin, what it is, what it does to you, what it's all about. So today we want to go through a brief study of sin. I want to start off with some verses of Scripture. Acts 13:37-39, *"He whom God raised up saw no corruption [that's the resurrection of Jesus Christ; no corruption meant He never sinned]; Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him is preached to you the forgiveness of sins, and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things, for which you could not be justified by the Law of Moses."* This verse indicates that we all sin and that we can be justified from our sins by God through Jesus Christ. Acts 10:43 says, *"Of Him all the prophets bear*

witness that through His name whosoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.” This is how we are forgiven for our sins - faith alone in Christ alone. Keep in mind we are born with a sinful nature, we got it from Adam's original sin. The Bible tells us, “*For by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin [that’s why we have to die], and now death is coming, because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*” (Romans 5:12). None of us are capable of living without sinning and none of us are capable of living without being related to Adam except Jesus Christ our Lord. He was born of a virgin. This is what's so important in His life. He was impeccable - He never sinned. He did not receive the imputation of Adam's original sin because His mother did not have sex with a man. It was an amazing conception - a miracle. He was the sinless Lamb of God that went to the cross. John 20:31, “*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life eternal in His name.*” Life eternal in the name of Christ because our sins were judged on the cross. On Him our sins were placed. Keep in mind, I don't have the authority to forgive any sin but I do have the authority to freely declare your sins are forgiven by faith alone in Christ alone. No man can forgive sin - only God can do that. Any man who is a believer in Jesus Christ can declare your sins forgiven by faith alone in Christ alone. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, “*He [God] made Him [Christ], who knew no sin [that’s the sinless perfection of Jesus] to be sin for us [He assumed our sins on the cross], so that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him.*” **On the cross there was a trade-off, Christ took our sins - not our sin nature - He took our personal sins, the sins that we commit and the sins that offended the justice and the righteousness of God, Christ paid for them. God judged Him in our place.** “*He who knew no sin was made sin*” is the judicial imputation of the sin of the world imputed to Jesus Christ on the cross. Thus we have an imputation when we receive Him. When we trust Him and accept Him as our Savior, we are made righteous through Him - “*the righteousness of God through Him.*” In other words, once we move into the royal family of God through faith alone in Christ alone, we have equal righteousness. Our righteousness is not credited to us because of what we've done, it is credited to us because we are in Christ Jesus. That's where we get that righteousness. In your position in Christ, you and I are secure and we are eternally saved. He alone paid the penalty for our sin as the justice of God demanded that it be paid. He did that. But in our experience we still sin daily. Since we have a sin nature, compliments of Adam's original sin, we sin daily. You and I both sin. You know you sin. We may not all have the same lust pattern, we may not all sin in the same area, but you and I sin because we are humans. These sins can be mental attitude sins, they can be sins of the tongue, they can be some sort of overt sin. Whatever they are, when we do them, they break fellowship with God in time due to the quenching of the Holy Spirit and the resulting grieving of the Holy Spirit. We have a relationship with God that never changes - it’s eternal, but in our position we are in and out of fellowship because of personal sin. Recovery from sin is based on the work of God. It doesn't depend on any work that we do. If we sin we can’t buy cake and give it to somebody hungry and say, ‘Okay God, forgive me, I fed a hungry person.’ That’s not how it works. It doesn't work to say, ‘I’ll never do that again, I promise.’ **Recovery from sin**

is based on the work of God, not on any works on our part. It's based on grace. We do nothing to be forgiven. Forgiveness is based on what God did at the cross - God the Father imputed all of our sins to the Lord Jesus Christ, and He judged them on Christ. God the Father did not forgive our sins on the cross, He judged them and canceled them out. Isaiah 43:25, "I, even I, am He who blots out your sin for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins." On the cross all sin was judged. When you receive Christ, that forgiveness is imputed to you and you are given the righteousness of Christ. As long as you are in the human world, you will need to confess sin. You need to name your sin to God because it breaks fellowship with God and quenches and grieves the Holy Spirit. 'Can a sin send me to hell?' No. **There is only one sin that's unforgivable and that's the sin of unbelief - someone failing to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed Son of God.** 1 John 5:10, "*He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he does not believe the testimony that God has given of His Son.*" The unforgivable sin is the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ as your Savior. There's no way that God can deal with that because you would then be at the Great White Throne of Judgment standing on your own righteousness, on your own works, trying to satisfy the justice of God. Good luck with that - it won't work. God's justice has already been satisfied in Christ, He judged Him in our place, He paid for our sin. When you come to the cross, when you say to the Father, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son and I'm willing to receive Him as my Savior,' those sins that were judged on the cross are taken away on your behalf. No longer are you looked at like this. Even if you die an unbeliever, your sins are not brought up at the Great White Throne of Judgment. The only thing that is brought up is your name in the Lamb's Book of Life; but because you died without receiving Christ, your name is blotted out. Secondly, the books of works will be opened and you can try to justify yourself as to why you will come to heaven but remember the verse, "*Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not do this and do that?' And I will say to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice inequity'*" (Matthew 7:22-23). The meaning of forgiveness means to set aside the repercussions of sin. Forgiveness is a result of Christ being judged for our sins but it's not the means of salvation. The solution for pre-salvation sins is they are blotted out, they are removed. Isaiah 43:25, "*I blot out your sin.*" There it is. Forgiveness means the repercussion of sin is removed. Sin is the thing that keeps us from having a relationship with God, so it's removed. Now we are in God's family. Now we can have a relationship with God. Now we can grow in grace. But we are still tempted daily until we leave this body and get a new body, a resurrection body, a body like that of our Savior. How you feel about your sin is interesting. 'Can I make up my sin to God? Can I do something to show Him that I'm sorry, that I won't do it again?' No, you can't. Just simply confess the sin as He instructs you and move forward. That's why the Bible says, "*If we confess our sin, He [God] is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9). How you feel about your sins is of no consequence to God. God doesn't get emotional like you do. God doesn't operate on emotions like you do. You feel really horrible and you feel really terrible that you did it. Maybe

you think God is really mad at you and He's going to bust you now because you did that. Listen, **God does not care how you feel about your sins. The fact that you acknowledged your sin is what He cares about. It is how God feels about the sin that counts, not how you feel about it. When you sin, you break fellowship with God. You set yourself up for warning discipline** for God to call you back. You essentially kicked Christ out. Remember the verse, *"I stand at the door and knock; if any man will hear My voice and open the door, I will come in to Him"* (Revelation 3:20). That is the Lord Jesus Christ wanting to have fellowship with you again, wanting to sup with you, but you've shut Him out because of your sin. Emotion and confession to other people is frequently used by believers to pass their guilt on to other people. I am strictly against you having a fess-up buddy, having someone you go to tell them about your sins and what you did. That's the worst thing you could ever do. Go to God. The Bible says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9) - rebound: problem-solving device #1 on the FLOT line of your soul. *"If"* is a third-class condition that means maybe you will and maybe you won't. *"Confess"* is the Greek word *homologeō*, a dual compound verb: *homo* (the same) + *logeō* (to say); to say the same. If we say the same, if we admit it, if we name it, if we site it, then God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That's a wonderful thing. But if you neglect rebound and fail to confess your sin to God, the bad result from neglect of rebound includes the fact that post-salvation sinning results in double punishment. Post-salvation, that's after you get saved and you keep sinning. You have the application of the law of volitional responsibility: *"To whom much is given, much is expected"* (Luke 12:48); *"If you sow to the wind, you reap the whirlwind"* (Hosea 8:7). And you have divine punishment from God, *"Those whom I love, I chasten"* (Hebrews 12:6). If you fail to name your sin - not allowing the Holy Spirit to maintain control of your life, not staying in fellowship with God by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit - you are setting yourself up for volitional responsibility. It's like asking the Lord to kick you right in the fanny and get you straight. It can bring about divine punishment from God. You don't want to go there. God said in Hebrews 12:6, *Sometimes I have to take you out behind the woodshed* - that's a modified expanded translation - *Sometimes I have to scourge those that I love*. Discipline includes: warning discipline, intense discipline and dying discipline. Many Christians have died way before they should have because they failed to deal with their sin on a daily basis. The Greek word *hamartia* is the word sin and it always refers to the sins we commit after we get saved. **The solution to personal sins after we get saved is 1 John 1:9, naming those sins to God - rebound - confessing those sins to God. Acknowledging our sins to God is totally apart from any human works. You can't make it up to God. Public confession is not necessary.** If someone tells you that you have to get up in front of the church and admit to the church what you've done - leave the church. That's legalism, that's terrible. The solution to personal sin is acknowledging and naming the sins to God and Him alone - apart from any human works, apart from any public confession, apart from you in your emotions trying to make yourself feel sorry for the fact that you did it (although you enjoyed it while you were

doing it), apart from the fact that you promised God that you will never do that again (that's a joke because you've probably tried that and probably went right back to it). The importance of you understanding sin is critical. If you are going to live the Christian life, it's important for you to know what sin is and what it's not. Why is that important? So you can avoid the temptation and recognize what a sin is. You can rebound if you do sin and you recognize it. I'm around a lot of people in my travels and I hear people gossip, malign, criticize, backbite other people and they never consider that to be sin. Maybe they talk about their neighbors; what shoddy neighbors they are and how they don't like that person because of this or that. Maybe they talk about some relative or maybe they talk about some politician. Whenever you slander, malign, criticize, gossip, backbite - these are sins of the tongue. James warns about that. Our Father does not allow you to judge anybody. You don't have to like the politician, you don't have to like what he stands for or doesn't stand for but when you start mouthing off and accusing that person of one thing or another, you are asking for divine discipline. You must remember that. You must understand that. You cannot avoid temptation if you don't recognize the sin. *"To him who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin"* (James 4:17). You must recognize sin. Many people don't recognize mental attitude sins. They don't recognize worry as a sin. They don't recognize fear as a sin. They don't recognize jealousy and bitterness as sins. These are emotional sins, and unless you name those sins then you go right back into them time after time. A lot of people want to make an issue out of things that are not really talked about in the Bible. I invited a guy to go fishing with me one time in a tournament and he said, 'Brother, I can't do that, that's gambling. You can't fish for money, that's gambling.' He lives in the extreme. Does the Bible tell you, you can't play blackjack? No, it doesn't tell you that. It tells you not to be a fool. It tells you to have some wisdom. It tells you not to live like the world lives. It doesn't tell you not to smoke a cigarette. It doesn't tell you not to drink wine. It doesn't tell you a lot of the legalistic things that people tend to put on you as a Christian. They tell you that if you are going to be a Christian, you can never do this. You have to be careful about that kind of stuff - what is a sin and what is not a sin. It is impossible to avoid temptation if you don't know what a sin is. The more you know about sin the closer the accounts you can keep up with God. If you understand what sin is, it gives you the opportunity to build up resistance against the sin that defeats you so much. If you can identify what is sin in the temptation stage, that will help you resist it. Temptation is not sin. Succumbing to the temptation is sin. The identification of temptation results in you succumbing to that temptation and you sin. You have to recognize the difference between being tempted and sinning. Some people confess the temptation - you don't have to do that. **The source of all sin is your volition. It's what's inside of you, in your soul. It's your volitional act of succumbing to the temptation of the sin whether the temptation comes from the world, from the flesh or from the devil - it will come from one of those three places. But the source of your sin is your volition. You choose to do it. It may be a sin of cognizance - you know it's a sin and you do it anyhow. It may be a sin of ignorance - you don't know it's a sin and you do it anyhow. It doesn't make any difference - it's still a sin.** When you commit a sin, being able to

identify the sin makes the function of rebound possible for you. If you can't identify it, you can't rebound it. One of the problems with identifying sin is that many sins - pay attention to what I'm about to tell you - become accepted in a culture through generations so they are no longer considered a sin by society. But they are sins in spite of what our society considers a sin and what it doesn't consider a sin. The Bible is still the Bible. The Bible still says what it says about sin. Maybe you need to read Romans 1 again, and then you can understand that God has not changed His mind about what is sin what is not sin. Sin is still sin - whether it's moral or immoral, whether degenerate or not degenerate, whether it's mental or not mental - it is still sin. If you don't know a sin is a sin, you can't rebound it - at least until you commit another sin that you know is a sin. If you don't know that this particular act is a sin and you don't confess it, you are out of fellowship. Then maybe a day later you commit a known sin and you go to God and admit that, then that unknown sin is cleansed too. That's how God does it. *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and purify us from all wrongdoing"* (1 John 1:9). For the ignorant, like me, it might take some time but in the meantime our spiritual life can decline if we don't recognize sin for what it is. Here's something you need to remember. Don't ever get the idea you have reached sinless perfection or that you sin very infrequently. That very thought is the sin of arrogance and it's defined as not just a single sin, arrogance is not a single sin, it's an attitude. The self-righteous religious attitude is the attitude that crucified Christ our Savior. *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* (1 John 1:8). Until you understand what the Bible calls sin, it's impossible for you to understand your experiential status quo. If you are in fellowship or out of fellowship, you won't know the difference. As I said, too many people commit sins and don't even know they are sins because society has changed and says it's not a sin anymore so it's ok to do this. No, it's not. It's never okay to do that. All of us sin. We all fail in different ways. Respectable sins and gross sins are no different in the eyes of God. Mental attitude sins are the worst sins in the Bible - far worse than what you might consider to be really bad like adultery or divorce. Legalism and self-righteousness and arrogance always want to condemn other people who commit adultery or have a divorce. Legalism is horrible. Don't blame your sins on other people. Don't blame your sins on alcohol or drugs or anything else. You have to take responsibility for your sin and you have to rebound your sin immediately. You don't have to do it just because you lust for it. You can say, 'No, I'm not going to do that.' Each person that sins must take responsibility for his or her own failure. It's simply true because in God's plan for your life, all human good, all evil is rejected. It is inevitable that throughout all of our lives as Christians we are going to sin, to perform human good, to fail in evil - volition is the culprit. Volition is the cause for the sin. Even if you are insane, neurotic, psychotic, sociopathic, it's your volition that brings you there. So think about these things, this information on sin. If you have sin in your life, confess it to God now, immediately - He is faithful and just to forgive you. Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Spiritual Profile

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode # 725 aired on July 14, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes you have a cordial invitation to stick around. It will be a few minutes of motivation, inspiration, some education and we do this without any manipulation. We do not solicit money. We are not trying to sell anything. We are not asking you join anything. The only thing I would ask of you is to listen up and learn and apply the Word of God that we give you today. I'm looking for people that are willing to orient and adjust to the plan of God in their life. I can give you the information, I can verify it and identify it from the Scriptures but it's up to you to do the rest. The reason we do this FLOT Line show is that we want to see, number one, people that don't know Christ come to Christ. The greatest thing that ever happened to me is when I became a believer at the age of twenty-two. I had never considered Christ. I never went to church. I was never involved in any religious organization. It took a date with a young girl and an encounter at a small Bible study group where someone spoke to me directly and there I made a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as my Savior. I never knew, I never had a clue what was about to happen. My life changed dramatically over a period of time as I learned God's Word. I got under a good pastor that began to teach me the Word of God. I began to recognize what my spiritual gift was and God opened the door to use me. Here it is fifty years later and we are still paddling along in the sea of life. What a great honor it has been to serve our Lord and our Savior. What a great honor it's been for me to be able to speak to you over the radio for the last thirteen years. We will continue to do so as long as the Lord makes that provision for us. The FLOT Line is provided to teach you Biblical truths and introduce you to a new way of thinking. FLOT - Forward Line of Troops - we are talking about an invisible barrier in your soul that can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. Adversity is what the world may do to you or you may do it to yourself. Adversity is inevitable. Stress is always optional. So it's up to you. You can have a wonderful, unique, great life called the Christian life. A life with no worry, no fear, no bitterness, no guilt, no jealousy, no animosity. Or you can live like the rest of the world lives in the dog eat dog race. It's really up to you. God has made provision for you to have a most fantastic life and it's free of charge. It just takes you learning and understanding what His plan is. That's what we would like to talk to you about a little bit today. What does it mean to be a spiritually mature believer? I call it a spiritual profile. Do you have a spiritual profile? That's the question I'd like to ask you on the radio show this morning. What is the definition of a profile? It's a brief written description that provides information about someone or something, or it could be an outline or drawing. But we are talking about your life when God looks at you. What is the profile He sees in your life? What I'd like for you to do this morning is to look into the mirror of God's Word and get a realistic self-image of who you actually are. It's true for me too. I don't just talk about you. Every time I talk to you, I'm talking to me, I promise. Listen to what the Scripture says about the mirror of the Word of God. In James 1:22-25, *"But prove yourselves doers of the Word, and not merely hearers who*

delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in the mirror; once he has looked at himself and goes away, he forgets what kind of person he was. But the one who looks intently at the perfect law, which is the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does." The mirror for you and for me is the Bible - the Word of God. This verse says we are to be doers not merely hearers. People that are hearers are people that don't have any faith perception. They don't take what they've learned and put it into application in their life. When you learn the Word of God, the Bible says it becomes wisdom in your soul. Wisdom gives you insight and discernment. By learning the Word of God and having wisdom in your soul, you can save yourself a lot of heartache and a lot of misery and a lot of money - just by doing what God tells you to do in the Bible. But if you run off down, what we call, the my-way-highway (which is a dead end, a cul-de-sac) you'll wind up wasting many years because you wouldn't listen, you wanted to do it your way. What if someone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer? Well the illustration is, he looks at himself in the mirror and sees a big old glitch there and he just doesn't pay any attention to it and walks away. Maybe like seeing food still on his mouth from dinner and he doesn't wipe the food off his mouth and he walks out into the public and everybody can see what an idiot he is. Once he has looked at himself and gone away he immediately forgets what kind of person he is. Here is the one God is looking for, James 1:25, *"But whoever looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty [that's the Word of God, the Bible] and abides by it [that's positive volition; you hear it and you apply it in your life] not becoming a forgetful hearer [that means he doesn't let the rate of forgetting exceed the rate of learning] but an effectual doer [he applies it into his life when he learns it] this man will be blessed."* This is a promise from God. You can be blessed by having a spiritually mature profile in your life. God just told you right there. *"I will bless you, if you will be a doer and not just a hearer; if you will exercise positive volition and follow My instruction I will bless you."* The mirror of the Word of God reflects what's in our soul not what's on the outside. If you stand in front of the mirror every day, like when you shave or put on your makeup, you see what's on the outside. The Bible reflects what's on the inside. That's an amazing thing. Listen to 1 Samuel 16:7 when Jesse had a son named Eliab and Samuel was about to anoint him to be the future King of Israel because he looked good on the outside. He had the appearance of a professional leader on the outside. Samuel was about to make a mistake. The prophet went down to Bethlehem to Jesse's house where God said one of Jesse's sons will be the future King of Israel but Samuel picked the wrong one. Listen to what God told him, *"The Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"* This is an amazing statement. Our Father has the ability to look into your right lobe - your heart, your memory center, your consciousness. God can see what your intentions and your motives and your desires are - even if you try to hide them. You may put on a good show acting like you are a great Christian - you go to church, you tithe, you sing in the choir, you take the mission trip - but

on the inside you have a cluttered nasty soul. You may even be double-minded. A double-minded Christian is a terrible person. That's a person that dabbles in sin and at the same time he tries to act like he's a great guy for God. A Christian out of fellowship. If you are that Christian and you are out of fellowship - that means you have unconfessed sin in your life - you are not a doer of the Word. You are simply a caricature of Christ. I call that a Christian caricature. A Christian caricature is a person who is not imitating Christ, is not reflecting Christ. He claims to be a Christian and may in fact be a Christian but he is not doing the Word and maybe not even hearing the Word. A Christian out of fellowship is merely what I call a caricature of Christ. He is not reflecting the true image of Jesus Christ. How do you get out of fellowship with God? Does that mean you are not saved anymore? No, that's not what I'm saying. I'm saying you are out of fellowship because you have unconfessed sin in your life. Whenever we sin, we break fellowship with God. The Bible is clear about that. *"Do not let sin reign in your mortal body"* (Romans 6:12). The Bible is clear that we have a sin nature. The Bible says, *"The flesh wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against the flesh; for these are contrary one to the other"* (Galatians 5:17). This is the battle you and I have every day. The flesh wants to control our life. The sin nature wants to dictate policy. As a believer, the Holy Spirit lives inside you. It's His job to guide you into truth and to help you to override the volitional temptations that are coming your way. But if there's nothing in your soul to support those thoughts then you are in trouble. You can maintain a good neutral image. You know, people say, 'He's a nice guy. He goes to church and he tithes and he doesn't cuss and he doesn't drink and he doesn't smoke and he doesn't run around on his spouse.' I mean, you can maintain a good neutral image maybe through service organizations with human good production. Or, on the other hand, you can reflect the true image of Jesus Christ. How would you reflect the true image of Jesus Christ? Am I saying God would not want you in a service organization? No, I'm not saying that it all. I'm saying some people look good, sound good, smell good, but they're not good. It's human good versus divine good. We know in the Bible (1 Corinthians 3) that human good is going to be burned up as wood, hay and stubble and divine good is going to be rewardable as gold, silver and precious stones. There are a lot of people amassing a lot of human good but there are very few amassing a lot of divine good. What are you amassing in your life? Are you reflecting Jesus Christ? Do you have the spiritual profile that we are talking about? Let's see what it is. (1) **A spiritual profile means you are in fellowship with God with no unconfessed sin in your life.** You say, 'That is impossible. I can't keep up with my sins.' Well, nobody can. That's why the Bible says, *"If we confess our sin, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). "All" means even the ones you don't remember. God does expect you - when you know you have sinned, and the Holy Spirit will let you know - to rebound that sin. That's problem-solving device #1 on the FLOT line of your soul. Nothing else works except rebound. Rebound is how you maintain the filling of the Holy Spirit. If you are going to have a spiritual profile, you must stay in fellowship longer than an hour at a time. It's possible for you to stay in fellowship for two hours or three hours at a time and not sin. What kind of sin are we talking about? Well there are

mental attitude sins, sins of the tongue and overt sins. Like drunkenness, anger, bitterness, jealousy, worry, fear, implacability we've got all kind of sins. Don't just think I'm talking about booze or just talking about adulterers. I'm talking about mental attitude sins, sins of the tongue and overt sins. You are not reflecting Jesus Christ when you are out of fellowship. You are nothing but a Christian caricature, a funny image of what Christ is. People will compare themselves to you and get a good chuckle sometimes because they are actually better than you, in the human good status. If you want to stay in fellowship, then rebound is the #1 problem-solving device. You may find yourself, if you live in a large city and if you are impatient in traffic, you may find yourself rebounding many times before you even get home because of the way some people drive. I've got to make a big trip this weekend and I dread the hassle of people on the interstate that are inconsiderate and weird. But it's true and sometimes I have to rebound because I get out of fellowship too. So that's the first thing - stay in fellowship. As soon as you know you have committed a sin immediately name the sin to God and He will be faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. Don't promise you won't do it again. That's crazy. You probably will. Go name the sin to God. This is not a license to sin. The Bible tells you, "*Don't let sin reign in your mortal body*" (Romans 6:12). This is a way to handle failure and flaws in your life - the failure of sin and the flaw of the sin nature. (2) **To have a spiritually mature profile the believer must acquire the mind of Christ.** That's important. "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). Acquiring the mind of Christ means you are changing the way you think. You are amassing divine viewpoint and it is replacing human viewpoint. In Romans 12:3, "*Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think but think in terms of humility as God has assigned each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word.*" This is critical for you. You must change the way you think - renovate your thinking. This is amassing divine viewpoint. How do you do that? By taking in the Word of God under a well-qualified pastor, learning the Bible and applying it - it will change you from the inside out. That's where it starts. **The Word of God insists you do these three simple things: stay in fellowship, acquire the mind of Christ and fight that arrogant syndrome in your soul.** Romans 12:3, "*Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think.*" The Word of God insists that we live a holy lifestyle. This kind of shook me up - a holy lifestyle. What does that mean to be holy? Does that mean put on a long tunic and walk around and not shave and call everybody brother and sister? In 1 Peter 1:15-16, "*But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all of your behavior; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am Holy.'*" This means that God does not expect you to dabble in sin. God does not expect you to compromise and sin. God expects you to be holy. The word for holy in the Greek New Testament is the word *hagios* and it means morally blameless or pure. And with that we have an aorist middle imperative of the Greek verb *ginomai* which means to become. So the verse says, "*be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.*" Become holy is in the imperative mood - it is a command from God. This is not a request. The aorist tense means there's never a time you are not to be holy. But the middle voice is reflexive and it means you get

this by means of the Holy Spirit. This is what we call a deponent verb. It comes from the Holy Spirit. You do not manufacture your own holiness. **As you are filled with the Spirit, as you take in the Word of God on a consistent basis and form a memory center in your soul and log the information in, then those two things - the filling of the Holy Spirit and living the Word of God - transform you into a holy person. That means a person that God is well-pleased with, a person that God is happy with.** We know our God is holy. We know that He is righteousness and justice. We know that in Him no sin resides at all. In our position with Christ, we receive the same righteousness that Christ had. This is how it works. Listen carefully. *“If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; and all things become new”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). The moment a person believes in Jesus Christ he goes from being just a body and a soul to being a body, a soul and a living human spirit. See, the spirit dies at birth, that’s called spiritual death. *“Through one man sin came into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned”* (Romans 5:12). When we are born, we are born in a sinful state, we are in the state of Adam. That's why we have to be born again. Born again doesn't mean you go back to your mother's womb like Nicodemus thought in John 3. It means the spirit which is dead has to be made alive and that occurs when God the Holy Spirit comes to live inside your human spirit and you are made spiritually alive. Now you are able to have fellowship with God, to worship God. The Bible says, *“Those that worship God must worship Him in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:24). When you leave this planet your soul and your spirit will go to be with the Lord, you’ll get a resurrection body (that's the body that will endure forever) and the sin infected body will go back to dust (you won’t need it, it doesn't work anyhow). We know that God is holy and we know that we receive the righteousness of Christ, we all become new creations. *“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so we might become the righteousness of God in Him”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). This refers to your position. In your position in the royal family of God you have perfect righteousness but in time you and I still possess a sin nature. Thus we have the ability to sin and break fellowship with God becoming unholy or infected with sin. That's why we have problem-solving device #1: rebound - so we can recover from the sin, get back in fellowship with God through the filling of the Holy Spirit and resume our spiritual advance to maturity. As representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ we must maintain a lifestyle that reflects Him. This requires problem-solving devices like: faith-rest (standing on the promises of the Word of God, using the faith-rest technique); learning by what we call faith perception (the Word of God says it, you believe it); developing virtue love [which is the motivation to obey God. *“If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not grievous”* (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3)]; and occupation with Christ. These are all FLOT line doctrines. These are all part of the ten problem-solving devices for your FLOT line. If you are going to maintain a lifestyle that reflects Christ you must do this. You must use the faith-rest drill, you must come to Biblical orientation, you must develop virtue love, you must get to occupation with Christ so that it’s no longer I, it's Christ in me. Legalism loves to insist that you walk holy. Legalism loves to insist that you talk holy, that you live holy. What does all that

mean? These are the same people that opposed our Lord, the holy Pharisees and the holy Sadducees. They were holy men and people looked up to them but they hated the Lord Jesus Christ because He represented to them the destruction of their power. In the church today we have holy men. You probably have a holy man at your church. Let me put it this way. Sometimes holy men or holy women do things to those in the congregation that are not so holy. Maybe you have witnessed that firsthand. But here's what I want to ask you. Are you living a holy lifestyle? Do you rebound when you sin? Are you learning God's Word daily and letting it shape your intentions and your desires? Are you recognizing your very own arrogance and naming it as a sin? Being holy does not mean you abstain from certain items in life. That is what most people will tell you. 'If you are going to be holy, brother, you can't do that.' I had a guy tell me one time when I was a young Christian, 'Brother, if you love the Lord, you can't do that.' Where does it say that in the Bible? It doesn't. It was just his pet peeve. Many religious people have pet peeves. They will love to tell you what it means to be holy. Being holy does not mean you abstain from certain items in life. It is an attitude of obedience. It's an attitude of faith perception, application and spiritual growth. That's what holiness is. The distracted believer never gets to that point in his life. In Hebrews 5:12, *"You have been saved a long time now and you should be teaching others, but instead you've gone back where you need to learn all over again the very first principles of the basics of the Word of God."* That is not a holy person. That's a person who has been distracted. But here is the greatest comeuppance you will ever hear: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, *"Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are."* You are the temple of God. God will discipline you when you break fellowship with Him, when you don't rebound sin. God will not tolerate you mocking Him. The Bible clearly says: *"Whatever a man sows, that he shall also reap"* (Galatians 6:7). Are you mocking God by being a caricature of Christ or are you serious about becoming holy and living that holy lifestyle and having a spiritual lifestyle, a spiritual profile that we talked about? I know you have questions and we've got answers, but we don't have the time right now. Just let me know and we will reply. Thank you for listening today. I'm Rick Hughes, host of the FLOT Line, praying you'll come back with us same time next week, same station.

Spiritual Giving

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode # 726 aired on July 21, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes you have a cordial invitation to stick around and listen to the things we have to say. We're not going to con you. We're not going to trick you. We're not going to solicit anything from you. We just want to give you some information. Information that will help you verify as well as identify the plan of God for your life. If you do that then you can orient and adjust to the plan at your discretion - it's up to you. You are free, you have volition, you have a choice, you have a chance to choose and you can make your own decision. The world is full of information. The wisdom of the world is out there. There's also divine wisdom, what we call divine viewpoint, the Bible, the Word of God. Basically there are only two systems of thought in the world: human viewpoint which is motivated by Satan and divine viewpoint which comes from God. Human viewpoint versus divine viewpoint. People, in their lack of wisdom, reject God, reject His word, kick it all out the door. They say, 'I don't believe it, it's not right, it's written by men, yada yada yada.' They go for human viewpoint. They trust a man rather than trust the infallible Word of God. *"The Bible is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit and the joints and the marrow"* (Hebrews 4:12) to anyone who listens, believes, hears, lives it and understands it. That's the great thing about the Bible, it gives you wisdom and wisdom gives you discernment and insight. Insight gives you the ability to see the unknown. That's what Scripture does, it gives you the ability to see the unknown. That's where faith comes in. You walk by faith. You know what the end result is going to be. God gave you two ends. One of those ends you think with and one of those ends you sit on. Success in life is going to depend on which one of those ends you use. Heads you'll win it and tails you'll lose. The FLOT Line is designed for two things: (1) To introduce you to the most fantastic gift God ever gave which is His anointed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (2) To give you information and for me to ferret out those who may be hungry for more information. That's what I'm always looking for. I'm looking for positive volition. People who want to learn and exploit the grace of God, understand it, use it in their life and go on to represent Jesus Christ in their everyday activities. FLOT is a military acronym for the Forward Line of Troops. We're talking about ten unique problem-solving devices found in the Bible. When you learn these ten problem-solving devices as taught in the Scripture, you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they roll into the inside source of stress in your life. Learning how to rebound your sin, learning how to be filled with the Holy Spirit, learning how to walk by faith, learning how to live by grace, learning how to orient to God's Word, recognizing your personal sense of destiny, developing virtue love for God the Father and impersonal love for others, sharing the happiness of God and eventually being occupied with Jesus Christ. Those are the ten problem-solving devices. We have all that in a book form. If you'd like to order the book just write to us or email us - rickhughesministries.org. It's free, no charge for anything that comes from this ministry. That's part of what we will talk about today. We don't solicit money. We don't

ask for money. We don't sell anything. We don't con you by saying, 'If you'll just give us this, we'll give you that, we just want to cover the cost of mailing.' No, we don't do that. If God motivates you to seek truth and you contact us, it is free. God gives freely. I've always believed that if God is in it, God will pay for it. That's how we manage twenty-seven radio stations across America this morning. **If God is in it, God will pay for it.** If the money is not there then we shut it down. It's just that simple. So let's talk today about a subject that is very dear to my heart. I couldn't operate as an evangelist, I couldn't operate as a ministry without grace giving, without people donating, contributing to our ministry. I'm not asking you to give any money, I just want to go over this subject with you. Christian giving is what I want to cover today with you. This has run amuck today in Christian churches. There are so many gimmicks, so many games, so many crooks trying to persuade you to chip in a few bucks. So let's look at the principles here. **The greatest gift ever given to the world is the gift God gave which is His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the testimony of grace giving.** Jesus Christ alone took the judgment for our sin. He was born into the human race without a sin nature. You and I have an imputed sin nature from Adam. We are sinful. He was not. He was virgin born. He didn't have Adam's sin nature. Never in His whole life did He ever commit a sin. He is "*the spotless Lamb of God [without sin] who takes away the sin of the world*" (John 1:29). That's why the Bible says, "*Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ [that's how we come to the Father, through Christ] and gave us the ministry of reconciliation [that's your job and my job, to share the good news that God is reconciled to man through Christ]*" (2 Corinthians 5:18). In other words, man's sins have been judged on the cross. Christ paid for those sins and we can have a wonderful relationship with God the Father through Christ. That's why the Bible says, "*He that knew no sin was made sin for us so we may be made the righteousness of God through Him*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). For a Christian, when we talk about giving (giving money to your church, giving money to a missionary, giving money to anybody) it's a lot more than simply throwing a few bucks in the offering plate. It's actually a function of worship since it involves not only the money you give but also a soul response and a correct mental attitude. I've watched people give. I've been told things about how to get people to give. When I first got into the ministry, I was told that I needed to go out and raise my support and buttonhole people and ask them to give money to me every month. But I didn't feel comfortable with that and I didn't do it. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade where the buckets were passed in the crowds and then buckets were thrown up in the air and money went everywhere when people disrupted the Billy Graham Crusade that I was at. Should you pass a plate before unbelievers? I don't think you should. I don't think you should ever ask any unbeliever to support the ministry of God. I think you need to ask him to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Is the Christian mandated to give an offering to his church or to missionaries that he knows? The answer is in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "*Each one of us must do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves the well motivated giver.*" Yes, God does expect you to give offerings to your church and to support missionaries. There's nothing wrong with that. But there are a lot

of misconceptions about giving in the church today. It's funny how people think, for example 'If I give enough money then God will give me what I desire.' I remember years ago when I was coaching some professional bass anglers, one of those bass anglers told me, 'If God will let me win this tournament I'll give Him 10%.' I said, 'Wait a minute, you're trying to hustle God for 10%? You want to win \$100,000 and you want to give God 10%? Why not give it all to Him, brother?' That didn't go over too well. You can't con God to give you what you want. You think you can tempt Him with a few bucks? That's crazy. You think if you give enough money God will give you what you desire. It doesn't work that way. Some people even give out of guilt. Maybe because they possess more money than they should. Or maybe because they have a guilty conscience, they've done something wrong and they feel guilty about it and they think they can assuage their guilt complex by throwing some money in the offering plate. That won't get rid of the guilt. If you have sinned, as a Christian, giving money is not the issue. Rebound is the issue (problem-solving device #1). *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and purify us from all wrongdoing"* (1 John 1:9). If you give money when you are out of fellowship, not under control of the Holy Spirit, having unconfessed sin in your life, it's just human good. It's what the Bible calls wood, hay and stubble and it will be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is not rewardable because you did it in the energy of the flesh. There are a lot of people that do that every Sunday morning in their local church. They throw a few bucks in the offering plate. Maybe they cheated someone in business, maybe they cheated on their spouse, maybe they did something illegal and they try to assuage their guilt complex by giving money. I've had that happen in my ministry where people were involved in things that were wrong and they gave money to us. We had no idea they were wrong. We had no idea what they had done. It was all to assuage their guilt complex. In the end it cost everybody - them in prison and us having to pay back the money they gave. It happens in life. God is faithful. He always supplies our needs. Grace motivated giving is the way to go. You give motivated by the grace of God. There is also false motivation for giving - you have to be careful about that. To understand that, you must remember that we live in the Church Age, we do not live in the age of Israel. That's the first thing we must get clear. We have to distinguish between tithing (what they did in the Old Testament) and giving. Many Christians today are told they must tithe 10% of their income. I was in one town speaking where a businessman asked me to come to his office and he said that his local church had sent a CPA to look at his books to determine how much he could give to the church. That's crazy. And yet that goes on - manipulating people, trying to intimidate people to give money to the church. I know another situation where the church wanted to expand. The deacons looked at the financial ability of each member and determined among themselves what those members should give. They went to those members and asked them to give that amount. That's crazy. That's a violation of grace. Did God command Israel to bring tithes to the temple? Yes. To support the priest? Yes. That was a form of taxation and everybody in Israel paid it. Not just the redeemed but even the unredeemed. Not just believers but unbelievers. Leviticus 27:30-34, *"Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the*

fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord. If, therefore, a man wishes to redeem part of his tithe, he shall add to it one-fifth of it. And for every tenth part of herd or flock, whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord. He is not to be concerned whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it, or if he does exchange it, then both it and the substitute shall become holy. It shall not be redeemed. These are the mandates which the Lord commanded Moses for the sons of Israel at Mount Sinai." Giving functions in every dispensation, tithing does not. Israel gave gifts but they also paid their tithes. Old Testament tithing in Israel is the only bona fide tithing in the Bible. Old Testament tithing was not synonymous with giving since giving went way beyond the requirement to pay taxes. In Proverbs 11:24-25, "*There is one who scatters, yet increase is all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.*" My ministry has been watered by generous people that provide the money for us to rent the airtime to play these radio shows, for us to travel and speak in schools, to print books and promote material like that. It's all grace giving - the grace of God. We never ask anybody for a dime. I learned that from my pastor at his church. Grace motivates people to give and that's the right mental attitude. We are to live by grace and give in grace, no strings attached. That means if someone decides to give a gift, they have no right to determine what the person does with that gift. That's between that person and the Lord. You give to the Lord and that person receives from the Lord. It is not about who does the giving or who does the spending. Giving has to be done freely by grace. It's interesting that in the New Testament, the Macedonian Gentiles actually supported Paul's ministry. He wrote about it in 2 Corinthians 8:3, "*For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord.*" Giving is wonderful. We are all mandated to give. We should give as God has prospered us. But that doesn't cut you down to a 10% hack and make you feel like you've done some wonderful deed because you put in 10% in the offering plate and you did your tithe. Again, tithing was for Israel in the Old Testament and everyone in the nation paid it. It was a form of taxation - it was not giving. Giving is a privilege. That means we reflect God's grace and glorify God when we give. Is there anything wrong with giving? No, if you are filled with the Holy Spirit when you give, it's wonderful. If you are not, if you are giving under compulsion or if you are giving out of guilt, then it's just human good and it will not glorify God and it will be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Let me give you some principles that my pastor taught me many years ago. (1) **Giving is a commemoration of grace since God the Father gave His Son as the ultimate gift to humanity.** So we have the first gift, the greatest gift, the gift of our salvation. The gift of the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ. (2) **As we recognize God's grace in our own lives then we give on the basis of our attitude from the Word of God in our soul. It is the Word of God in our soul that motivates us, that enlightens us, it is called wisdom, discernment, understanding, insight. When we have that wisdom then we know when it's right to give and when it's not right to give.** It's always wonderful to see. It's amazing for me to see in my ministry the times when the Lord provides exactly what we need - exactly - without me asking anybody, without me having

to tell anybody. Like you, I have friends that say, 'If you ever need anything, brother, just let me know.' My response is, 'I'll let the Lord know. If He lets you know, that's between you and Him but I'm not coming to you. I'm going to Him.' That's what we should do. The sequence in giving begins in the soul first - that's soul appreciation for the gift that God gave us. Then, the overt act of giving since giving is an extension of our spiritual growth. Most people haven't grown enough to even know how to give yet. Most people give out of compulsion, out of guilt or out of wrong motivation. When you grow spiritually and understand those wonderful problem-solving devices and are on your way to becoming a mature believer, then your giving will be much greater. Not financially. I'm not saying that. It will be a much better benefit for you because you are giving from motivation of the Word of God. The issue is never the giver and it is not the gift. The focus always is on virtue love (that's your appreciation for God's grace provision) and God's grace (grace orientation: problem-solving device #4). When we have these problem-solving devices in our life then they motivate us to live the right way. But if you give under emotionalism, there will always be strings attached. Do not ever try to tell people what to do with the money you give them. If you give somebody a gift, leave it in the Lord's hands. Give it to the Lord and they can receive it from the Lord - end of story. Giving under emotionalism means there will always be strings attached. If you are at a church service and they try to get you all worked up emotionally to meet this goal or that goal by putting something in the plate, Hallelujah - praise the Lord; leave - go find another church, get out of there. If God is in it, God will pay for it. Here's a novel solution, what if a church quit taking offerings? There is nothing wrong with a church taking offerings, but what if the church just put a box in the back and said if you want to give, put it in here. What if all ministries operated like that? What if they quit asking for money, quit soliciting money, quit selling information, quit selling books and quit selling tapes? If they quit asking for money and quit soliciting money, they may be out of business tomorrow. They always have to come up with a new gimmick and a new way to get people to give. It's so wonderful to know that the Lord provides all your needs. You don't have to manipulate anybody. Just shut up, do your job and let the Lord pay for it. If He doesn't pay for it, go do something else, you are in the wrong business. You don't give under emotionalism. If you don't have the filling of the Holy Spirit (problem-solving device #2), then everything you do is going to be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Every dime you gave, every nickel you gave, every offering you put in there, is going to be burned up as wood, hay and stubble because you did it under the energy of the flesh. In 1 Corinthians 16:2, "*On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, on the basis of his own prosperity, so that no collection be taken when I [Paul] come.*" Paul didn't want the offering plate passed. 'If you want to give some money, set it aside and when I show up then you can give it to me, but we are not going to solicit money when I'm speaking' is what Paul was saying. What is this thing about tithing, the true meaning of tithing? It's not spiritual giving in the Old Testament. Even today in the Church Age, tithing can promote great arrogance. It was never spiritual giving in Israel. Tithing was always 10% income tax under the law of Moses for all citizens. Ten percent of the tithe for all Jewish citizens to maintain the

Levites to support the priesthood so that they could present the Word of God in worship (Numbers 18:21). That's not pertinent today. We are not in the age of Israel. We are not under the old system of taxation. In addition to a 10% tithe for all Jewish citizens to support the cost of the priest's everyday living, every third year Israel required the payment of the charity tithe of 10% for those who legitimately needed help (Deuteronomy 14:28-29). That was another 10% income tax paid by all the people. It was charity. It was not socialism. Charity is wonderful. Socialism is not wonderful. Key concepts in giving: (1) If you encounter any believer who pressures you to give, has a system of gimmicks, get away. Dunning you for your money is inconsistent with grace. (2) Be alert to false ideas of giving - how much you should give, when you should give. People tell you, the more you give the more God will bless you. That's not true. If you are not giving the right way, you are not going to get any blessing from God at the Judgment Seat of Christ because it's going to be burned up as wood, hay or stubble. Be alert to those false ideas of giving. Be alert to people who try to manipulate you by telling you how much to give. What you give is between you and God - that's grace all the way. Here's something interesting. Grace giving should never deprive you or your family of the necessities that you have in life. God says pay your bills first, feed your family first, do not deprive your family. **Giving in grace demands proper motivation, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God resident in your soul and appreciation for what God gave.** Grace giving demands proper motivation not deprivation. Giving should always be a matter of free will. No one should coerce you to give anything. You might not always have the money but you can always have appreciation. Motivation comes from appreciation for the Word of God in your soul. Listen to 1 Timothy 5:8, *"If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever."* When you give money to the Lord's ministry it has to be properly motivated and properly administered. Any believer in a local church or in a ministry who administers funds must be filled with the Holy Spirit and must glorify God. Some believers have the gift of giving. That's a spiritual gift. God prospers some people so they can be a channel of blessing to other people. If you have the gift of giving that's wonderful, just remember where the prosperity is coming from. Giving remains one of the greatest challenges to grace in the Christian life since it's always an act of worship. If you are not giving from the proper motivation then all your gifts are merely human good. There's a lot more to say about this. We can provide you a book called *Giving: Gimmick or Grace?* written by my pastor. If you'd like a copy, let us know and we'll get it to you. It goes into the whole thing from the Old Testament to the New Testament and shows how you can understand the spiritual gift of giving. I hope this has encouraged you. We are not asking for any money. We are not soliciting money. We are just talking about the principles of giving in the New Testament as compared to the principles of giving the Old Testament. I hope this study might have freed some chains that were binding you. I hope you will continue to listen to our show every Sunday, same time, same place. Until then, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Challenge

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 727 aired on July 28, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I am your host, Rick Hughes. Thank you for tuning in. The next few minutes are dedicated to motivation, some inspiration, some education without any manipulation. No appealing for money, no asking you to join anything, just asking you to listen. Listen as I give you the Word of God. Hopefully something that will challenge you and help you orient and adjust to the plan if you wish to do so. Remember, you have your own volition. You can decide what you want to do with your life, it's your choice, it's up to you. God gives you freedom. You are not an automaton. You have to make that decision. Whatever you choose to do with your life, that's between you and God. But I can give you some information that may help you if you are interested and if you listen. This show is always designed to remind you of Biblical truths and hopefully introduce you to a new way of studying and learning the Word of God. Thank you for listening. Every Sunday morning we come on this station. Every Sunday morning we trust God to provide and He always does. It's our pleasure to join with you. Today we would like to talk about the Word of God - Hebrews 4:12 (something very important and very dear to me), *“The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit, and of the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* My pastor, before he went to be with the Lord, quoted this verse before every sermon that he gave, before every Bible study class that he taught. After hearing him repeat it a few thousand times, it got burned into my memory. *“The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword,”* that's the Roman sword, the *machaira* - the two-edged sword. Not a *rhomphaia* - a big one-edged sword. Not a *xiphos* - a little dagger. But the Roman sword they used to conquer the world - two-edged. The Word of God is analogous to the two-edged sword. *“It pierces to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit and of the joints of the marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* The Word of God criticizes our thoughts - what we are doing, what we plan on doing. God knows your thoughts, your intentions, your motivations, your desires. He knows all of that and His Word will comment on that in your soul if you learn it. The first question you have to ask is: is the Bible the inspired Word of God? Can you trust it? It is the number one selling book in the world. They've got campers Bibles, children Bibles, lonely wives Bibles, lonely husbands Bibles, everybody's got a Bible trying to make a buck off the Word of God. Nothing wrong with buying a Bible but there is something wrong with somebody trying to make a buck off the Word of God. Can you trust the Bible? There are many different translations including the King James version, the NET Bible (New English Translation), the NASB (New American Standard Bible), and more. Hopefully, any pastor you study under will get away from the English and go back to the original manuscripts, the original Greek words and see what these words mean and how they apply to your life today. To study under what my pastor called the ICE technique - Isagogical, Categorical, Exegetical. Isagogics: the interpretation of the Bible in its historical setting. Categories: classification of Bible doctrine according to its subject matter. Exegesis: the

grammatical, etymological interpretation of Scripture from its original languages. Is the wisdom of the Bible a concise set of standards or is it merely a relative or subjective book according to the situation? That's the question you have to ask yourself. Is it a concise set of standards? Can you trust it? Here's another question. Is there an absolute source of wisdom available to us today? Or are we left alone to take our best shot at what might be right and what might be wrong based on our own standards? Is there an absolute standard of what's right and what's wrong in this world today? The answer is, yes, it's called the Word of God. **The Bible is an absolute standard. It is not relative and it is not subjective to the situation. It is what it is.** You realize there's nothing new under the sun don't you? We repeat patterns that recur unless we step outside the mold of human viewpoint thinking. That's the question. How do you think? The Bible tells you, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). The Bible also says in Romans 12:3, *"Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think."* You have to realize, people have been thinking a long time about what's right and what's wrong and rationalizing this. Have you ever tried to live a life of happiness and fulfillment only to be disappointed with the results and even frustrated? Have you? I mean, your marriage is not working, your job is not fulfilling, your finances are in a critical mess, your kids are in a mess and you can't control them, you can't even get to them - and you've lost control of everything in your life. Sometimes it just seems hopeless. What a sad place to be. Maybe, just maybe, you might ought to consider what God has to say since you've pretty much made a mess out of things on your own. Look at it. Look at your finances. Look at your spouse. Look at your kids. Some of you can say, 'Mine are great.' Others of you can say, 'Man what a mess this is.' Maybe you have to consider what God has to say. **There are two ways to live your life. You can live it according to the absolute standard of the Bible that is *alive and powerful*. Or you must choose some other way to live it. You must have some other rules to govern your life, some other way to think. Since you don't want to think divine viewpoint, you are not interested in what the Bible says, then you have to come up with some sort of human viewpoint, some sort of alternative way of thinking, rationalizing, perceiving what is truth and what is fiction.** Not that you are an evil person. I don't mean that. I don't mean you are bad. It's that you have never really taken time to learn the other way or to see what God offers you if you will at least try to follow His plan. Why do some people not read the Bible? Because it convicts them and exposes their shallow thinking. When you read the Bible it will come alive, it will speak to you as a Christian. It's like a mirror, it will reflect what you don't want to see sometimes. That's how powerful it is. Money can buy happiness, right? No, wrong, money cannot buy happiness. Love will fulfill my life. No, it won't. Children will bring me joy. No, they won't. The sad truth is that unhappy people, like maybe yourself, take their unhappiness with them wherever they go. You may even buy things you don't need to impress people that you don't even like. That's a sad thing about life. It's just a narcotic to deaden the pain of an empty life. I'm suggesting there's an alternative life. There is a life found in the Word of God which is *alive and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword* that can control your thoughts and judge the intents of your

mind. The Word of God, the Bible, the recorded Scriptures, both Old Testament and New Testament. I know people say that men wrote it, but here's what's recorded in 2 Peter 1:21, "*No prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*" Moses, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, many others were led by God to record their thoughts as the Holy Spirit prompted them. In the New Testament we have the recorded thoughts of men who never dreamed they would be writing Scripture that would be endorsed by God or used to change the lives of millions of people. Do you think Peter, James and John - fisherman - do you think it was ever in their mind as they were following Jesus Christ through Galilee and across to Jerusalem that they would write the New Testament? Do you think that ever came to their mind? Do you think Luke, Mark, Paul ever thought about the words that they wrote would still be available today and it is *alive and powerful*? All we know about Jesus Christ was written by these disciples - everything - also by a Dr. (Luke) and a disciple of Paul whose name was Mark. Paul, a known killer of Christians, was converted and wrote many of the pastoral books in the Bible that have been saved for centuries and given to you as a gift. A gift you promptly disregarded and then set out to conquer the world on your own. What a dumb thing that was. How are you doing with that? You entered into the devil's world armed with only human viewpoint of maybe a friend or someone who supposedly was a wise person. Like many, myself included, you promptly became a victim of your own bad decisions. Then, in frustration, you turned around and blamed God for the mess you caused. He laid it out for you in the Bible, it's *alive and powerful*. It's already there for you. It'll live inside of you if you learn it and use it, it'll protect you, it'll give you wisdom, insight, discernment and understanding. Just think about this; the Bible is powerful. The Greek word is a descriptive adjective describing what it can do in the life of the one who believes it. If you have faith perception, that means you take the Word of God and believe it and live it by faith, it can change your life. Just think about this; the life of Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, is recorded for us in the Bible, His crucifixion and His resurrection included with the words that say, "*Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16). I believed those words when I was 22 years old and my life changed in an instant. I didn't look any different on the outside. I am still, the big old ugly guy that I always was, but inside there was a new birth, a new spiritual birth and I was made spiritually alive. The Bible is *alive and powerful* and clearly states, "*If any man is in Christ, he's a new creation; the old things pass away and all things become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). A new spiritual species, a born-again Christian. That's what happened to me. It should've happened to you. The way that it happened was recorded in the Bible for you to know and understand. When someone tells you, you need to be saved or you need to accept Christ as your Savior, it's written in the Bible. The living Word of God is *alive and powerful*. When you believe it, it'll transform and change your life. Once I accepted Christ I began a journey of discovery, discovering what an idiot I was and what a goofball I had been, making some stupid decisions in my life. I learned what had happened and what I needed to become. It was all there in the Bible but I needed a pastor to explain it to me. I was just a spiritual infant. The Bible is not a novel, it's

a textbook, it has to be taught to you. The first thing I learned, my pastor showed me, was this verse, *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). I had to learn what was in the Bible and how it applied to me. I went to Bible college and took courses about the New Testament, but I didn't learn the mechanics - I learned the historical background. I'm talking about the mechanics of how this new life in Christ works - not the historical background of the Old Testament or the New Testament, who wrote it, or when it was written or what this is about or what that's about - how it applies to you. Study what? *Study to show thyself approved unto God*. Study what - math, English, science? No, study the Scriptures. The Scriptures contain the wisdom that I needed to succeed as a stranger in the devil's world. God knew me better than I knew my own self. Listen to what the Bible says in Psalm 139:1-6 (this is how well God knows you), *“Oh Lord, You have searched me and know me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thoughts from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and You are intimately acquainted with all of my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too high, I cannot attain to it.”* That's the omniscience of God. He knew you in eternity past. He devised a plan for you in eternity past. That's a perfect plan for your life. A plan to give you happiness and meaning and purpose and direction - if you learn it - if you use it. But if you reject it, thinking you are smarter than God, you don't need the Bible, you don't need that stuff and that you have a friend who is going to give you a better way to live - you are out of your mind. Note Proverbs 1:7, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”* Fear means respect. **You have to learn to respect the Bible. God preserved it for you. God left it for you. It is your course correction. It is your direction in life.** Listen, you have to start your recovery somewhere so start by respecting what God says. Listen to what He says in Proverbs 1:24-33 (it's critical), *“I called, and you refused; I stretched out my hand, and no one paid attention; and you neglected all my counsel, and did not want my reproof; I will even laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, when your dread comes like a storm, and your calamity comes on like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come on you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me. Because they hated knowledge, and did not choose to respect the Lord. They would not accept my counsel, they spurned all my reproof. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be satiated with their own devices. For the waywardness of the naive shall kill them, and the complacency of fools shall destroy them. [here it is, pay attention now] But he who listens to me shall live securely, and shall be at ease from the dread of evil.”* **When you ignore the Bible you are signing your own death certificate. When you ignore the Word of God and choose to go your own way, you are going the satanic way. You are buying in to human viewpoint thinking, you are buying in to the words of the cosmic system. You are going to be trapped in this delusional farce that Satan has put out there:** ‘If you want to be happy, get some money; if you want to be happy, get married; if you want to be happy, follow the lust of your

flesh and become whatever you want to be. Don't worry about it, the Bible is not really true anyhow, you don't have to worry about what it says.' You better worry about what it says because the Bible says, "*God will not be mocked*" (Galatians 6:7). **The Bible was around before you got here and it's going to be around when you are gone. It is *alive and powerful*. It will change you if you will believe it and learn it and live it. It will give you a history and a definition and a purpose and a meaning in your life.** You will be able to get a grasp on your marriage, you will be able to get a grasp on controlling your children, you will be able to get a grasp on your finances - if you listen to what the Bible tells you. Why? Because the Word of God is powerful, it guides you, it protects you. From who? From yourself. You are the one destroying your life, not your friends. You are the one who is ignoring the Word of God, not your friends. You are the one saying you are too busy. Wow, **the Word of God is powerful, guiding and protecting you from yourself and from Satan, who obviously has a plan to destroy you, to deceive you, to discourage you, to defeat you.** Ephesians 6 talks about putting on the armor of God - it's in the Bible - so that you can detect and even deflect the strategy of Satan whose entire desire is to destroy Christians and ruin their lives. However, this is interesting, some people seem to do it for him - Satan doesn't have to worry about them. Maybe like you, you've done a pretty good job of messing it up yourself. Have you neglected the Word of God? Have you neglected to get under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor? Have you neglected to study God's Word and learn and get wisdom so that you can have insight, discernment and understanding? This is a wonderful thing about the Bible, it gives you the ability through faith perception to see what the rest of the world cannot see. Yes, x-ray vision, as they say. Yes, you can see through the Word of God what the world cannot see. You can even see Satan's plan and how it works and how he's after you and what he's trying to do to confuse and defeat you in your life. You can see how Satan uses his world to defeat your children and destroy your children. It's all in the Bible. I don't mean just pick it up and point your finger in the middle of it and start reading. There's nothing wrong with reading the Bible. Absolutely you can read it, but a much better way to do this is to get under the ministry of a qualified pastor and learn it. Sit down each day with your Bible, with a notebook and listen to the pastor instruct you, teach you the Word of God. Then the Word of God will govern your thoughts and direct your life - if you learn it and use it. You have to learn it and use it. You learn it in your mind, you use it in your heart. You see, the communicator communicates information. If you are filled with the Holy Spirit (not out of fellowship because of unconfessed sin in your life) then the Holy Spirit will capture what the pastor communicates and then it will come into your mind where you can comprehend it. It's called in the Bible knowledge or *gnosis*. But that's not all of it. Then you have to comply with what your mind captures and you do that by faith. You believe it by faith and apply it into your life. You apply it in your heart (*kardia*), in your memory center, in your frame of reference. This is where you live your spiritual life - your mind and your heart. It's critical that you understand that. Only by getting under a good paster can this be explained to you. Church is not a lonely-hearts club (let's take a tour this week, let's go to the game this week, let's watch a movie this week, let's all

fellowship together and we will all hang out together in our little Christian community). That's fine, but the world is out there. The world is begging for help. The world needs your help. The world needs you to represent Jesus Christ and reflect Him in your life. Without some divine guidance you don't have a shot. You don't have a shot at making it through life before you will self-destruct. So what do you say? What do you want to do? Are you ready to confess your sin to God - your sin of neglect and the rejection of His Word? Are you ready to commit your life to a fresh new approach? I can assure you of this, it won't be easy. Any person I've ever talked to about studying God's Word and learning God's Word has come under vicious attack. That's the last thing in the world Satan wants you to do. Listen to Jeremiah 33:3, "*Call on Me, and I will answer you* [there's your verse right there] *and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*" It's all recorded in the Bible for you. This is what you need to pray, 'God the Father, please show me what I need to do with my life, how I can get on course, how I can grow, how I can learn. Help me to apply what I learn.' It's there, but every time I tell somebody, every time I meet with somebody, every time I develop a close friendship and somebody starts to study, it doesn't take long and Satan comes through with distraction and deception and sweeps them away and they're gone. They say, 'I don't have time to do it anymore, I'm too busy; yeah I know I need to study the Bible, I know I need to listen to a pastor but I work and I've got kids and I don't have any free-time, I'm so busy.' It's up to you. You can make it a priority or you can not make it a priority. As for me, priority number one in my life is learning and living the Word of God. If I had not found a pastor to teach it to me, if I had not had positive volition to learn it and live it, I would've been dead a long time ago. I would've destroyed myself just like you are on the road to doing right now because you are neglecting the Word of God. It is *alive and powerful* - it will empower you, it will help you. It's *sharper than a two-edged sword* - it will cut you to pieces, it will show you what you really are. It will even take you into the thoughts in your mind, your soul and your spirit and show you what you are thinking and why you are thinking it. It will show you how arrogant you are sometimes to reject it. Yes, He warns you. Yes, He's called out to you even through a radio show like this. What are you going to do about it? 'Oh I'm just going to trot on down the my-way-highway and take my best shot at it.' Okay, it's up to you. If you are interested in getting your life together, you better get serious about studying, learning, and gathering the Word of God. If you don't know how to do it, contact me. I'll help you, I'll get you the information. I'll show you great pastors that provide information free of charge. We will provide information from our ministry free of charge. Anything to help you get a grip on your life - where you are going and what God expects out of you. It's your future. It's up to you. How many years have you wasted already chasing your own tail in a circle? Are you listening? Are you ready to make a change? Are you ready to admit you're failing at this big thing called life and you're miserable? Then contact me. Get in touch with me as soon as you can. Let's get ahead of this thing and let's get God's plan going in your life so you can hear Him say to you, "Well done My good and My faithful servant." Until next week, I'm your host, Rich Hughes, and I would like to thank you for listening to me this morning. I appreciate it. See you next week.

Grace Orientation

Transcript of FLOT Line Lesson 728 aired on August 4, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I invite you to stick around and listen up to the things that we have to say. I want to remind you that God has given you two ends. One of those ends you sit with and one of those ends you are thinking with. Your success in life depends on which one of them you use. Heads you win, tails you lose. I don't know how your life goes, but do you find yourself committing the same mistakes over and over again? Do you get frustrated with yourself because you want to change but you can't change, you can't do what you want to do and you do what you don't want to do? That sounds like the apostle Paul in Romans 7:15-17, *"I don't understand myself at all because I want to do what's right and I keep doing what's wrong. It's evident that it is sin in me that causes this."* When we talk about soul renovation and action renovation, we have to understand that in order to change the way we do things, we must change the way we think. That's why God gave you a brain. God gave you thoughts so you can think in terms of rational reasoning in your life. The Bible tells us in 2 Peter 3:18 we are to *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* That's in your brain, you are supposed to come to understand, to know, to comprehend, to realize, conceptualize exactly what God's plan is for your life. Nobody ever grew by singing some song. It comes by only one way: 2 Timothy 2:15, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."* If you ever want to grow, if you ever want to have any hope of changing the destructive patterns in your life and the failures that you frustrate yourself with - it only comes through spiritual growth in your life. That's what the FLOT Line is about - growing spiritually. On the FLOT Line we teach ten unique problem-solving devices called the ten problem-solving devices. On the FLOT line of your soul are these invisible assets that help you stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Two of the most important principles you could ever learn or even understand in those ten problem-solving devices are doctrinal orientation and grace orientation. You must learn to orient your life to what the Word of God says - divine viewpoint thinking - that's doctrinal orientation. And you must learn to operate under the concept of grace - that's grace orientation. Our Lord's disciples had to learn that their future ministries would be funded by grace. Jesus had a wonderful way of teaching the disciples. Remember, several of them were commercial anglers and they depended on their catch to make a living. That's how they made money to feed their families - they got paid for catching fish and selling them. But they did not get paid for being fishers of men; they didn't get a paycheck for that, so they had to learn to depend on God's grace provisions. This is exactly the same concept for you and me. **We must learn to depend on God's grace provisions.** Listen to Luke 9:1-5, *"And He [that's Jesus] called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to heal diseases. [sort of like a credit card representing who they were and who they were identified with] And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, and to perform healing [again identification]. And He said to*

them, 'Take nothing for your journey, neither a staff, nor a bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not even have two tunics apiece. And whatever house you enter, stay there, until you leave that city. And for those who do not receive you, as you go out from that city, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.'" They were to preach the kingdom of God. They were to heal the sick as a sign of their authority from Jesus. The healings that they performed demonstrated the power in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, thus showing that He was indeed the real true Messiah and could bring in the kingdom of God. So the disciples were forced to depend on the goodwill offerings of those who responded to their message. The message about Jesus of Nazareth being the true Messiah. I mentioned in a recent message on giving, that there's no place for manipulation of finances in the ministry. There's no place for manipulating people about money. Gimmicks that produce income are a disgrace to God's grace provisions. Sometimes I hear people say, 'For a gift of such and such, I'll be glad to send you absolutely free...' Wait a minute. I remember going to listen to a revival one time and the preacher was selling his sermons in the foyer and the music leader was selling his songs in the foyer. I'm thinking, what in the world are we doing here? If we are in the ministry, we don't take offerings, we don't solicit funds. We let the Lord handle that detail. Whenever you have to use a gimmick, sell a T-shirt, sell a music video, sell a sermon, you are not depending on grace - you are trying to raise money to finance your ministry. People justify this by saying it's okay to do. I say, no - never mention money - never raise money - never solicit money - don't do that if you are in the ministry. **Grace orientation starts with salvation by grace. That's where it starts. We are saved by grace.** Listen to Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it's the gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one can brag about it [no one can boast].*" None of us can approbate God into giving us eternal life. None of us can say, 'Well, you know God, I don't smoke, I don't drink, I don't chew and I don't run around with those that do, so I deserve to come to heaven.' It's God's logistical grace; He gives us grace in salvation. Grace is a free undeserved gift. That's why the Bible says, "*He who knew no sin was made sin for us, so that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). That's the good news. Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, redeemed me out of the slave market of sin. He paid my debt to God, and now I'm free from the penalty of death and I'm free from the power of sin. When I accepted Christ as my Savior, I accepted the offering He made on my behalf - free - a gift from God - complements of God. Titus 3:5, "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.*" So now I'm a Christian. Now I'm in God's royal family. Now I'm depending on God to supply my needs and it's called logistical grace. Logistics - what I need to get by every day. Logistical grace provisions for God's children is guaranteed as long as we are in the devil's world. He promises that for you and for me as well. **Logistical grace is defined as divine planning, divine support, divine provision, divine blessing for the execution of the protocol plan of God by the royal family so we can fulfill God's will, God's purpose and God's plan for our life. He will give you what you need to**

fulfill that plan. Your objective is to grow daily. Redeem the time, the Bible says, you only have so many days you can't afford to waste them. If you are going to glorify God to the maximum you must redeem the time by *"studying to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."* It would be pitiful to show up in heaven and have the Father say you blew every opportunity you had to glorify Me because you were so self-centered and so busy that you wouldn't take time to learn the plan. God's plan is called protocol. The plan demands that a right thing be done in a right way. That's why you've heard me say before, you can do a right thing in a wrong way and it does not glorify God at all. A right thing must be done in a right way. I've always said, as an example, it's never wrong to pray but there is a right way to pray and a wrong way to pray. The Bible says, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me"* (Psalm 66:18). There's a right way to go to church and a wrong way to go to church. The wrong way is to go to church with unconfessed sin in your life, having quenched the Holy Spirit thus grieving the Holy Spirit and He's not able to do His job. He's not able to take the information the pastor gives you and help you to process that information. It is the support God gives you - logistical grace. It's defined as divine planning, divine support, divine provision, divine blessing so you can execute the protocol plan of God in your life - God's will, God's purpose and God's plan for your life. Logistics is a military term. It refers to a science in the military, a science of supply, provision and planning when you have troop movement. It's the provision and the movement and the maintenance of all resources, all services necessary to sustain military forces while they are in the field. They have to have logistics. It is not just soldiers going over there to fight; it's logistics back home, it's people making sure the soldiers are fed, people making sure the equipment works, people making sure the bullets are there, people making sure the fuel is there, people making sure the food is there. That's all logistics. Life support is provided for you and me, for every one of us believers in this Church Age. This explains to me, and hopefully to you, how and why we are alive every moment. **The only reason that you and I are still alive is because of God's logistical grace. We don't earn it, we don't deserve it and there's nothing we can work for to do it and keep ourselves alive. It's all grace.** Where does all of this logistical grace support come from? It comes from the justice of God. What's it going to? God sends that support to His righteousness in us. The perfect righteousness of God in you. Listen again, *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us, so that we might be made the righteousness of God by means of Him."* When God sends that logistical grace blessing, He is sending it to His righteousness in you through Christ. Which means you can't bargain with God to get it. You can't bargain with God for anything. God blesses His absolute righteousness standards in your life that were imputed to you through Jesus Christ. Just like God is absolutely righteous and perfect in righteousness, you have absolute righteousness too. Not in your experience, because you still have a sin nature, but in God's logistical grace support coming to the perfect righteousness of God in you. All those grace provisions come from God's integrity. It's even for Christians who fail to execute the Christian life. You know, Christians who wind up backslidden and in reversionism - God still keeps them

alive, God still provides for them. Grace is a wonderful policy. It is for the execution of the Christian life in this Church Age. You know, even in the Old Testament logistical grace functioned - God provided. David gave a testimony of old age to logistical grace. This is what David said about God's logistics in Psalm 37:25, *"I was young, but now I'm old; yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken [that means logistical grace given to the imputed righteousness] nor have I seen his seed begging for bread."* What does that mean? It means that logistical grace blessing to you can extend even to your family, to your grandchildren, to your children, even to the third generation, I think the Bible teaches. God's logistics to you can be blessing by association. *"My cup overflows"* David said, *"Truly goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life"* (Psalm 23:6). The entire testimony of the shepherd is found in Psalm 23:1-6, *"The Lord is the one who shepherds me [that's logistical grace] therefore, I cannot lack for anything [He supplies every need I have] He causes me to lie down in green pastures of choice food [that's life support] He leads me to waters of refreshment [again, life support] He restores my soul; [that's rebound; confession of sin] and guides me in paths of righteousness [in other words, He gives me those problem-solving devices] because of His reputation. Also, when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death [that's dying grace which we will all come to] I will fear no evil; because You are with me; Your rod [that's the divine discipline of God] and Your staff [that's the divine deliverance of God] they comfort me. You have prepared before me, a table in the presence of my enemies; [that's God's logistical grace] and anointed my head with oil [that's promotion from God] my cup [that's the escrow blessings that God gives] is overflowing. Only the good [that's the prosperity of escrow blessings] and the grace [that's logistical grace] will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* I gave you a lot there. I know you didn't get it all. Let's go through it one more time. *"The Lord is the one who shepherds me. Therefore I cannot lack for anything. He gives me all of my logistical grace needs. He gives me my food. He gives me my water. He protects me in living, He protects me in dying. His rod is over me. He promotes me and, as a mature believer, my cup overflows to those in my periphery."* The testimony of Paul in logistical grace is found in Philippians 4:19, *"My God shall supply all of your needs [logistical grace support] according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* Here is the principle: God will never run out of riches to support you. "Riches" in that passage refers to God's virtuous actions toward you. *"My God shall supply all of your needs according to His riches [His virtue] in Christ Jesus."* That's where it comes from. If you are not in Christ Jesus, good luck, you are the disadvantaged one. You don't have God providing for you. You are trying to provide for yourself and you will beat your brains out in the devil's world as Satan laughs at you trucking on down the my-way-highway. The testimony from our Lord is addressed to the apostle Paul when Paul was frustrated over some suffering that he was going through. He had a thorn in the flesh and he kept praying for God to remove it. By the way, that thorn in the flesh was people testing. Here's the answer from God. Once Paul prayed for it to be removed, God said in 2 Corinthians 12:9, *"Then He [God] assured me [Paul], 'My grace [logistical grace provision] has been and still is sufficient for you, for the power is*

achieved with weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that the power of Christ may reside in me.” The weaker I am, the more power grace gives me. That's what Paul is saying. ‘I'll boast about my weakness so that the power of Christ may rest on me.’ No believer, not me, not you, not anyone, no pastor can live on this earth apart from having logistical grace support. Having grace orientation as a problem-solving device is so important. Listen to logistical grace in Hebrews 2:14-15, *“that through death He might render powerless the one who has power of death, that is the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all of their lives.”* One of the greatest enslavements in this world is the fear of death. Logistical grace delivers us from that. We have logistical grace support, and it renders powerless the threats of Satan. In Psalm 68:19-20, *“Blessed be the God, who daily bears our burdens for us [that's logistical grace support] the God who is our deliverance. The God who is to us a God of deliverance; and to God belongs the escape from death.”* That is logistical grace support in time. And then we come to the point when we will check out of here. It's going to happen sooner or later, hopefully later, but you are going to have to check out, you are going to have to transfer into the face-to-face realm with your Father. Dying grace is another phase of grace orientation. We have an eschatology that looks forward to dying and death because we know that God has provided dying grace for those who go through that door, the door of hope I call it, confident expectation. You and I must have a personal sense of destiny about the future. We have learned that God decides the time, the manner and the place of our death. We have nothing to say about it; unless we do something stupid like walk out in front of a train - then obviously you took your own life. So at the moment of our death, we will remain in a place of *“no more sorrow, no more tears, no more pain”* (Revelation 21:4) and you will stay in the presence of God forever. That's dying grace. In your thinking you go forward to that fantastic future. If you think about it right now, the future you will have, it gives you strength and power to overcome your present problems. That's the mechanics of confidence or hope as a problem-solving device. You know where you are headed and you know what's waiting for you. You can see it - that's what faith does - faith gives you the ability to see the unseen. You can see it and you know what's coming. So you have confident expectation. **Dying grace is a wonderful grace asset. It is the death of a mature believer. It's experienced at physical death. It is some sort of special provision of grace where the believer involved experiences both blessing and happiness while he dies.** It is not fun to watch an unbeliever die because they are frightened, they are fearful, they have no hope. And it is not fun to watch a backslidden, reversionistic believer die. I've watched people die and it's not fun. They are frightened. They are afraid. But in the case of a mature believer it is totally opposite; they are totally confident, totally looking forward - confident expectation. Dying grace is really an extension of living grace and that's how we glorify God. If we glorify God when we live, then we can glorify God when we die. It's through the function of the spiritual life that we glorify God in living and if you can do that, it's inevitable you will glorify God when you die. Dying grace can occur regardless of the amount of pain or suffering - I don't care if it's cancer, I don't care what it is. If you are a mature believer,

dying grace can occur regardless of the amount of pain. It could be a maximum amount of pain or minimum amount of pain, in either case, you will have maximum soul stimulation and happiness because of the confidence you have in God's Word and God's promise to you. Dying grace is for the mature believer only. *“Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who are occupied with Him, on those who have confidence in His grace, to deliver their souls from death, and to keep them alive in depression”* (Psalm 33:18-19). If you are a mature believer, if you have grown in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (as I implore you to do every week, to get with the program, to grow up spiritually, to learn God's Word and live by God's Word) then you can experience dying grace which will remove any fear of death according to Psalm 23:4. In 1 Corinthians 15:55, dying grace takes the sting out of death. It's a great blessing that comes at the termination of our life. It is still a part of living: physical death plus the Word of God in our soul equals the greatest blessing in this life. So when a mature believer comes to that time, it's a part of God's blessing to him. It's the link between temporal time and eternal time. It's the bridge that takes you from time over to eternity. And that's a bridge you must walk over by yourself. You can walk over frightened and afraid or you can walk over with confident expectation and you can hear your Lord say, “Well done My good and faithful servant.” If God provides the greatest for us in time - and He does - then He cannot withhold anything less in eternity. He does it, He gives it to us. It's all there for you. Without blessing in time we can have no blessing in eternity. God knows that, He provides that, and so the relationship of blessing in time with blessing in eternity is found in dying grace because dying grace brings all eternal rewards into clear focus. Job teaches that in Job 5:19. The mature believer, hopefully you, will have nothing to fear at the point of death. No fear of death. No fear of anything dangerous. No believer will die until the Lord says it's time to come home but once God calls a believer home, nothing can keep him here. The living must go on living and the dying must go on dying. A person in dying grace would never hinder others from continuing their living. That's why we say God is the expert. He decides when it is the perfect time for each of us to depart from this earth. It's His best time. The disciples had to learn this. They had to understand it because they were all persecuted and they all died martyrs, with the exception of John who died alone on the Isle of Patmos. They had to learn to depend on God's grace provisions to supply their logistics and to supply their future, just as you must learn and I must learn what grace is all about. Next week I will try to go into doctoral orientation and emphasize the importance of that in our life. I sure hope you are enjoying it. I hope you are listening and learning. That's my prayer. That's why we are here. Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Doctrinal Orientation

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 729 aired on August 11, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. It's your host Rick Hughes every Sunday, same time, same place. Thank you for tuning in. You know the show is not about any sort of gimmicks, no games, not trying to hustle you for money. It's just designed to give you accurate information, hopefully that will help you to verify as well as identify God's plan for your life. My prayer always is, if you can do that, you will orient and adjust to the plan. The FLOT Line, this radio show, is designed to remind you of all these Biblical truths and hopefully introduce you to an in-depth way of studying and learning the Word of God. Again, no manipulation, no solicitation, just some education and some motivation. It starts with the best news I could tell you. That is, Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, redeemed you and me out of the slave market of sin. He paid our debt and we are free from the penalty of death and free from the power of sin. Anyone who receives Christ as Savior is, in effect, accepting the offering He made on our behalf. It's a free gift from God, complements of God, and it's free. Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the [I'll put in the word free] gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast.*" In Titus 3:5-6, "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He shed on us abundantly.*" What that simply means is this. When you were born, you were born spiritually dead but physically alive. You have a body and you have a soul at birth, but your spirit is dead - you are spiritually dead. The reason is, "*For by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and now death is passed on all, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 5:12). That is not referring to personal sins you commit, it's referring to your position in Adam - in Adam all die. When you believe in Jesus Christ you are "born again" - as Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3. This doesn't mean a physical birth, it means a spiritual birth, that your human spirit is made alive again. Why? Because God the Holy Spirit indwelt your human spirit. Now you have three parts to you (trichotomous): a body, a soul and a living human spirit. When you depart this earth, as a believer in Jesus Christ, the body goes back to dust, back to the ground. But your soul and your spirit ascend immediately to heaven. There you await your resurrection body - the body you will live in forever. So if you learn these things and understand these things, it's great confidence, great reward, great encouragement in your life. Last week I spoke about grace orientation, orienting to the grace of God in your life, beginning to see every day that every breath you take is complements of the grace of God. The grace of God sustains us even when we fail in our lives. Even when we sin, He doesn't kill us. He doesn't take us out. He allows us to continue breathing. He allows us to continue to survive. God even provides all the logistics we need to make it. That's grace. Grace orientation means that not only do I understand the grace God provided me, but in return, I'm able to multiply that grace to other people. I can grace them out also. One of my favorite things to do is grace waitresses - I like to grace them out with a wonderful tip. Some of them work very hard just to try to get by so I tip way above 20%.

Gracing people out is wonderful and you can grace out your enemies when they turn on you, when they're bitter towards you, when they malign you. You can grace them out by not maligning them back as 1 Peter 3:8-9 says. Don't get into cursing each other out, that's definitely a sin for a believer to do that. Grace orientation is a wonderful problem-solving device. We know that by God's grace our life will be sustained. We know that by God's grace we don't have to worry about anything. We know that by God's grace the Supreme Court of heaven is open 24 hours a day and will always be there for us if we need to go there. We know that by God's grace we can rebound any known sin, confess it, and God said He would be faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from that. That's grace. Maybe you have not exploited grace in your life. Maybe you've hidden sin in your life. Maybe you've lived with guilt and shame. You don't have to do that if you are a believer in Jesus Christ. Simply go to the Father, name your sin and put it behind you, move forward, keep going, go on down His way - the Thy-way-highway (not the my-way-highway). Another problem-solving device that's always critical for us to understand is called Doctrinal Orientation. Some people call it Biblical Orientation. It's us learning to think with the mind of Christ. **Thinking with the mind of Christ is called having divine viewpoint and the only way you can get divine viewpoint is by learning the Word of God.** We have a Bible and these words, recorded by the apostles, the writers of Scripture, are designed and kept for us. It is our textbook and it's designed to be taught to us. It's not a novel, it's a textbook. God even ordained certain men who have the gift of pastor-teacher and their job is to study and teach the Bible, not to be a lonely-hearts counselor, not to give you a cruise-ship experience, but to study and teach the Bible. If you are looking for someone to hold your hand through times of adversity and tell you, 'Don't worry about it, you'll be fine' - that's not the pastor you need. You need one that will feed you. You don't have to know him personally. You don't have to have a great camaraderie with him. You just have to have him be accurate in teaching you the Bible so the Holy Spirit can take what he teaches you and lead you to apply it into your life in a way that can glorify God to the maximum as you stand on your own two feet, not trying to depend on your pastor to tell you what to do. Why should you study the Bible? What is it about studying the Bible that I keep pushing? The mandate is found in 2 Timothy 2:15. The Greek word *spoudazo* means study. It is a present tense verb which means there never is a time in your life that you are not to be a student of the Word of God. The active voice says the subject of that verb, which is you and me, produces the action of the verb. Being in the imperative mood it simply means this is a command from God through Paul to Timothy. "*Study to show thyself approved unto God.*" Study is a mandate. We are to "*study to show ourself approved unto God.*" Why? Well, the next words say, "*rightly dividing the Word of Truth.*" The Greek word for rightly dividing means to get it straight, to teach Scripture accurately. It is so easy to veer off course. It's so easy to be led astray. This is something Satan is really good at doing - getting people to get away from what the Bible says and to present some sort of mixture of human viewpoint with their thinking. We are to rightly divide. If you know anything about math you know that dividing means division (12 divided by 2 = 6). Bible study causes division - it has to. People study for the wrong reason.

People study the wrong way. Some have hidden agendas when they study. Some have a blind arrogance in their life. Some teach the Bible and they are ignorant, not knowing the language of the Bible. Sometimes people even claim extra Biblical revelation - it's not in the Bible but they think God told them to teach it. I've seen great men go off on these stretches to proclaim that they had a new breakthrough and a new revelation about how something should be understood in a different way, so they take great liberty with that. *Dividing the Word of Truth* is division. Bible study causes division. If our God told us to be careful and if our God told us to get it straight then He must have known that there is a possibility that some people would mess up. It's here for you.

The most critical thing in your life as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, apart from staying filled with the Holy Spirit every day by rebound, is to get under the mentorship of a well-qualified pastor, a man who's dedicated his life to studying and teaching the Bible. If you can do that, then you can begin to grow consistently by studying on a consistent basis. Just like you would exercise every day or just like you would clean house every day. Every day you would take a few moments, 30 minutes to an hour every day, to put in a DVD or an MP3 and listen to the pastor teach the Bible. Get a notebook, get a Bible, take notes. That's what I do every day so that I can get it straight and get it accurate. My ministry - as I travel and I speak - I have been doing this for fifty plus years now - is based on accuracy, not personality. It's not about the man, it's always about the message. When I speak in private schools, talking to kids (I can't get in public schools anymore, they won't let you mention Jesus Christ in the public schools) my job is to be very accurate, not to entertain them, not to go in and make them laugh, but to go in there and give them what the Bible says. They are certainly smart enough, intelligent enough to decide whether they want to believe it or not believe it. You can bet one thing, in 1 Corinthians 14:33 the Bible says, "*God is not the author of confusion...*" It is not God's design to confuse anybody. Confusion is instability, a state of disorder, a disturbance. I have lost close personal friends who decided that the Bible didn't mean what they thought it meant a few years ago, that it really means something else and so they abandoned the solid, sound, systematic teaching they had, to go with a different viewpoint in a different way. They're totally convinced that they are right and I'm wrong or we're wrong or somebody else is wrong. It's amazing to watch this happen. The Bible says "*God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*" Here is something very interesting. The very next verse, 1 Corinthians 14:34, says, "*Let the women keep silent in the church.*" I don't know what that means, you can figure that one out, but that's the next verse. I can tell you this, the Bible does not ever contradict itself. It does not teach one thing in this chapter and another thing in that chapter. It is never unfair. The Bible is never emotional. **If you are going to have Biblical Orientation it doesn't come through emotional stimulation, it comes through the imputation of the Word of God into your soul as you learn it, believe it and apply it.** We often use the term LAG (a friend of mine coined that phrase) - Learn, Apply, Glorify. Learning and applying is critical. When the Bible says, "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman, rightly dividing*" - that's applying. You can't apply what you don't know and so if you learn and apply, then you are able to rightly divide. You are

able to see and discern what's right and what's wrong. You are able to stay out of divisions that are caused by emotionalism, by arrogance or caused by somebody thinking they are smarter than somebody else and so they got a better way to do it. There is another verse that we have to take a look at on Biblical Orientation and that is in 2 Peter. The last verse I gave you said "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that not to be ashamed.*" Now we add to that, "*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). Grow is another verb, just like study is a verb. The Greek word to grow is *auxano* and again it is a present active imperative. There never is a time as a Christian, you are not to be growing. The active voice says you produce the action of the verb by your consistent filling of the Holy Spirit and your consistent submission to the authority of a qualified pastor. When you do that, the imperative mood is a mood of command, God is telling you through Peter to grow in grace (*charis*). Last week I talked about grace orientation and the critical need for grace orientation in your life. Learning about grace. There is saving grace - we talked about that last week. There is living grace (Colossians 1:16) where God provides all the logistics that you need. Matthew 6 talks about that. Read Matthew 6 and look at it for yourself. Logistical grace provisions. There is dying grace in Job 5:19-27. God will not take you out before you come to your full age if you consistently grow. God can take you out early if you get into reversionism, if you "backslide" as some people say. If you turn away from the Lord, go down the my-way-highway, fail to rebound your sin, you are going to come under warning discipline, you are going to come under intense discipline and you may even come under dying discipline. That means that the Father could call you home way before He intended because you are incorrigible and you have reached the point of no return. I've seen that happen. You can't judge people and say, 'I know they went out under the sin unto death,' but I've seen it happen. It's real and it can happen to you and to me if we forsake the Word of God, if we forsake the filling of the Holy Spirit, if we fail to listen to what God tells us and we continue down the road of the my-way-highway then we get under tremendous discipline from God. God's discipline is designed to rescue us, designed to save us, designed to keep us from self-destructing. The sin unto death is nothing more than self-destruction. That's what happens when a believer fails to listen to God. There are a lot of ways to shorten your life. In Ephesians 6:1-2 the Bible says, "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord.*" That's a prepositional phrase - in the Lord. The ability to obey legitimate authority comes from the filling of the Holy Spirit - in the Lord. And then, "*Honor your father and your mother.*" One is obey and one is honor. There are two different words there. Honor your father and your mother seems to indicate that they're not together anymore. The father and the mother have split up. In the first part it says, "*children obey your parents*" they are there together. There never is a time in the life of any child that they should be hateful, disrespectful, antagonistic towards either parent in the case of a divorce. We are always to "*honor our parents (which is the first mandate with a promise)*" the Bible says. I'm going to read it again. "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord. Honor your father and your mother (which is the first mandate with a promise).*" What exactly is the promise? If I honor my parents, if I obey my parents, what is the promise God is

talking about? It's found in Deuteronomy 5:16, "*that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you on this earth.*" The way to live a wonderful life, a long life, is for you and me to orient to authority, to learn the Word of God, to be submissive to the Word of God, orienting to the authority of the Word of God, orienting to the authority of our parents so that we learn self-discipline at home and we don't go into the devil's world like a loose cannon. I've said it before, I'm going to say it again, on this radio show: **if you are a parent and you don't teach your children the Word of God, you don't provide for your children an authoritative structure in your home, then you are abusing them. You are going to turn them loose in the devil's world without a hope, not a chance of making it.** They don't know the alternative, they only know what the world tells them. There is an alternative. It's called divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint. There's a different way to think and a different way to live and you must expose them to that. There are a lot of ways that our kids can shorten their lives. If they are believers they can commit the sin unto death for sure. Any of us could mismanage our health and abuse our bodies by doing things that are harmful to us. Our kids can run with the wrong crowd and get in trouble, etc. This is something that I faced in high school - hanging out with the wrong people, getting in the car with the wrong guy, scaring the fool out of me, thinking he's going to kill me, telling that guy I'll never ride with you again - wrong crowd. "*Grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" The word knowledge is a critical word. There are two words for knowledge in the Bible, both are translated knowledge. One of those Greek words is the word *gnosis* but the other word which is also translated knowledge is completely different. It is the word *epignosis*. The difference between these two is the difference between what's in your mind and what's in your heart. When you go to church and you listen to the pastor teach you the Bible, the Holy Spirit's job is to pick up that information, if you are filled with the Spirit, and to help you process it and bring it into your mind so you understand what the pastor taught. Now it's up to you to, by faith, to believe it and apply it in your life. When you understand it, it's called *gnosis*. When you believe it and apply it, it's called *epignosis*. That's the difference. Biblical information in your heart is *epignosis*. It circulates in your memory center, it becomes part of the frame of reference and your vocabulary storage. If it's just in your mind, there's a verse that says a little bit of knowledge can puff us up. Knowledge can. People that think they're smart and wise can get arrogant about it. We learn knowledge so we can apply it in our life, not second-guess it and not critique it, but to apply it. Again, you must be under a pastor you trust. You must be under a pastor who is submissive to the will of God, who is not trying to prove himself, not trying to make his own agenda, one that follows the course correctly. If you can do that then you'll have a long wonderful life. You can apply the doctrine you learn. You can live grace orientation. You can exploit the grace of God and share the grace of God. You can be a faithful witness for Jesus Christ. You don't set out trying to change the Christian world by some new doctrine that you think you've learned. My job is not to change the Christian world. My job is to reach out to the lost people in the world, and that's your job also. You'll find every now and then a pastor who wants to change the way other pastors think or change the way other

Christians think. That's a wrong agenda. *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* Our Lord Himself said these words, *"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me"* (Matthew 11:28-29). Learn - the only way that you can become a mature believer is to learn God's Word. If we don't learn God's Word then it reflects into our nation and our politics, into our schools and into our homes. Instead of glorifying God with the decisions that we make as a nation, we begin to go down the my-way-highway internationally or nationally. This is one of the reasons that discipline comes on a nation. The Bible is very clear why nations are destroyed. Hosea 4:6 says (this was given to the Jews, but applicable to us), *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Since you rejected knowledge, I will reject you."* I would say that's true in America today. The majority of Americans are not interested in the knowledge of the Word of God or what it says because of the changing social agendas and because of changing rhetoric on what's accepted. It's like everything that used to be evil has now become good and everything that used to be good has now become evil. You know, you've seen it yourself, you've seen it on the news, who has hidden agendas and who has open agendas and is trying to force recognition and acceptance when the Bible says, 'No, it's wrong!' When the nation begins to bend to political pressure from those that oppose what the Bible teaches, we guarantee discipline on the nation. I believe America is under national discipline. I thank God for the reprieve we've had for the last few years. I've never seen such an attack on the institution of the President that is going on today. Whether you like him or not, he's definitely under attack. We are at a critical time in history. Who leads this nation must be oriented to the Word of God, must respect the Word of God and must believe in divine operating principles and divine institutions: freedom, marriage, family, nationalism (not internationalism). These are all Biblical principles that are critical for us and they all come from the Bible. Learning the Bible. Learning what God instituted in the Bible. Learning what was written there, preserved, kept for you and me. If we do that, understand that, then we have a bright and wonderful future. But to the extent that we shove it into the back closet and we forget about it and we get involved in life going merrily down the my-way-highway - it's a guaranteed road to destruction and loss of freedom. That's what we face in America today. I hope you've been listening. I hope you are paying attention. I hope you are grace oriented and doctrinally oriented to the truth in your life. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Filling of the Holy Spirit

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 730 aired on August 18, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes, please stay with me. It will be a time of motivation, some inspiration, some education and of course we do it without any manipulation. We are not trying to con anybody. No games, no gimmicks, no requests for money. No solicitation to join anything. Just asking you to listen for a few minutes as we discuss the plan of God for your life. Hopefully, we can verify and identify that plan. Then you, if you would like to, have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan of God in your own life. You have to make your own decisions. You were given two ends. One to sit with and one to think with. Success in life depends on which one of those you use. Heads you win, tails you lose. You are a product of your own decisions. Bad decisions always limit future options. The worst decision anyone could ever make is the decision to reject God's solution to sin. That is to reject Jesus Christ as their Savior. The Bible clearly says, "*He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life, and he that believes not, the wrath of God abides on him already*" (John 3:36). God the Father provided the solution for my sin in the person of His own Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord. By believing in Him and receiving Him as my Savior, the Father and I are now on the same page - we have fellowship together. That's why the Bible says, "*He that knew no sin was made sin for us, so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him [by means of Him]*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). That's how we come to the Father, not by our works. The Bible says, "*For by grace are you saved through faith; it is a gift from God, not of works, lest anyone should brag about it*" (Ephesians 2:8-9). With that in mind, we want to move on in our weekly FLOT Line series. I'm honored that you are listening. Thank you for being here. I always love to hear from you. Don't hesitate to write. You can simply go to the website rickhughesministries.org. You can order books from the website free of charge. Never do we solicit money. Never do we ask for money on this radio show. You can also listen to all of the previous episodes on the website. And we have just started making the FLOT Line available on podcast which you can find on Spotify. We want to study today the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. Listen to what Paul prayed for the church at Ephesus. In Ephesians 3:16, "*that God would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be made strong by means of His Spirit in the inner man.*" That's where the spiritual strength comes from to live the Christian life. When the Lord announced to the disciples that He was going to leave them, He told them, "*In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; so that where I am, you may be also*" (John 14:2-3). That was a shock to them. They didn't fully comprehend the death, the burial and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ - not yet. And they certainly didn't comprehend the exit resurrection and the return of Christ - not yet. He told them, in His absence He would send another teacher, one like Himself, which He called "*the Spirit of Truth*" (John 14:17). "*I will pray to the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, so that He may abide with you forever*" (John 14:16). In

John 14:26, *“But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring them to your remembrance whatever I said to you.”* Prior to this time the disciples had been getting face-to-face teaching from the Lord. In these verses we see our Lord telling the disciples that they would now have a new way of learning the Father's plan since our Lord Jesus Christ was going to leave them. They had been face-to-face with Him for several years. They had face-to-face teaching, they watched Him and listened to Him. Now He was going away and in the future they were going to be required to operate by faith perception. There was no more empirical evidence since Christ was leaving. They were going to have to have faith to perceive what the plan was. How's that going to happen? Jesus told them the Holy Spirit will bring all things to your remembrance. This is mentioned in Peter's writings where he stated that the Holy Spirit gave them the recall and the direction as they wrote the letters which we now call the New Testament. They did not know they were writing what is considered our Bible. They didn't know when the Lord called them or when the Lord departed from them that they would be the most famous writers in the history of the world. That they would write what we know to be the canon of Scripture, the Bible, the inspired Word of God. They had no idea that was going to take place but they did it. The Holy Spirit prepared them for what they wrote. Peter mentioned this in 2 Peter 1:20-21, *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for the prophecy came not at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”* Peter is letting you know that this is not some conceived plan. It was not their desire to publish a book and sell it. The Bible is the number one selling book in the world today. There are a lot of Bibles out there and everybody wants to sell you a Bible. I personally like to read the New Testament from the original manuscripts. I'm not a Greek scholar, not by any means, but there is enough literary help that I can use the Greek vocabulary and go into the New Testament and look at words. Like the word love, for example. There are four different Greek words for love and yet they're all translated love. In the original languages it could be *agapao* or *phileo* or even a couple of words that aren't used in the Scripture. There are four different Greek words that all translate into the English as love. So we have to understand which love the Bible is speaking about. In John 21 the Lord asked Peter, “Do you love Me? Do you love Me? Do you love Me? Peter kept using one word but the Lord was looking for another word. It's important when you study the Bible, especially if you are under a well-qualified pastor that you (1) are under the control of the Holy Spirit and (2) that the pastor is under control of the Holy Spirit and is teaching you from the original languages. A lot of things lose their meaning in translation so we always go to the isagogics of the word and we always try to exegete the passage. We go line-by-line, word-by-word. Let's keep on with this. The same Holy Spirit was given to you - the Holy Spirit that Peter spoke about how He led them to write what they wrote - that same Holy Spirit is given to you the moment you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. I know this from Ephesians 1:13-14, *“In whom you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation - in whom also after you believed [that's getting saved] you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is*

the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession of the praise of His glory.” God the Father, at the moment you made the decision to receive Christ as your Savior, sealed you with the Holy Spirit and guaranteed your inheritance. It’s like someone making homemade jelly and putting a paraffin wax on it to seal the jar. The Holy Spirit seals your redemption. He will never leave you. He won’t forsake you. He’s always there until the time that God calls you home. **The objective of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is to enable you and me to overcome the demands of our sin nature, what we call the flesh. The flesh is always there. All personal sins that we commit come from the desires of the flesh. They are a product of our volition. We choose to sin.** Paul wrote about this in Romans 7:15-20, *“For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me [that’s the sin nature]. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.”* Do is mentioned a lot in that verse. There are three different Greek words for do, but they all translate “do.” Paul is saying he has a sin nature, he wants to do the right thing, but sometimes a sin nature exhibits itself and causes us to fail. It could be a mental attitude sin (like worry, fear, anxiety, anger, jealousy or bitterness), or it could be a sin of the tongue (like slandering, lying, gossiping or maligning), it could even be an overt sin (such as adultery, fornication or stealing). All sins originate from the lust of the flesh and your volitional decision to obey what the flesh desires. That’s why we are given the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit. He can sustain us in this daily battle. He uses the Word of God as our comfort and encouragement. We find in Galatians 5:16-17, *“This I say, walk by means of the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is contrary to the flesh; and they are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want to do.”* This tells you that there is a battle going on in your mind 24-7, a battle to control your thoughts. Your spiritual life is lived in your thoughts and those thoughts translate into motives, intentions and desires. If you are going to live the spiritual life, you have to learn to control what you think. That’s why the Bible tells us, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus who humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation”* (Philippians 2:5). That’s why the Bible says in Romans 12:3, *“Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think; but think in terms of humility, as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word.”* **This is where you live your spiritual life - in your thoughts.** This is where the Holy Spirit can sustain you and teach you and encourage you. But if you quench the Holy Spirit, if you grieve the Holy Spirit, then He’s not able to do His job. We have two negative mandates in the Bible. The first one is in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 which says, *“do not quench the Spirit.”* The second one is in Ephesians 4:30, *“do not grieve the Spirit of God.”* Quenching the Spirit is you shutting off the power. It is

like bending a water hose in half to stop the water from coming out. **When you sin and do not rebound the sin, you quench the Holy Spirit - He no longer has the power to guide you, assist you, encourage you because you have surrendered control of your life and your thoughts to your flesh. Now the flesh takes over.** This is the battle, Paul talks about. *“The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh”* (Galatians 5:17). They both want to control what you think. The spiritual life is lived in your thoughts, in your soul, in the mentality of your soul and it reflects itself in your actions and what you do. We have a term for when you are out of fellowship with God. If you are out of fellowship with God you are carnal, the Bible says. This means you have unconfessed sin in your life. 1 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 10:4; Romans 7:14 all talk about being carnal or sinful. It is possible for a Christian to sin and it is possible for a Christian to wallow or stay in that sin. If you do, you are carnal, you are in reversionism, you are going backwards. There's also a term for the Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit – the term spiritual. In Galatians 6:1 and 1 Corinthians 3:1, Paul talks about us being spiritual. This doesn't mean a famous celebrity like Billy Graham, the world famous evangelist, can be any more spiritual than you. You are filled with the same Holy Spirit. When you are filled with the Spirit you are spiritual but that doesn't mean you are a mature believer. Maturity is based on the content of the Word of God in your soul. Spirituality is based on whether or not you are filled with the Holy Spirit. You can be filled with the Holy Spirit and still be a baby Christian. That's the plan, because the Holy Spirit wants you to grow up. He wants you to move from being an infant Christian, to being a mature believer, to understanding the complete plan of God for your life. The Word of God can protect you if you learn it. If you learn the Word of God and apply the Word of God then you can stay out of sin. The Holy Spirit helps you in this matter. Psalm 119:11, *“Your word have I hid in my heart, so that I might not sin against You.”* And in Philippians 2:13, *“For it is God who works in you, both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”* That's the Holy Spirit working in you. This is what the Holy Spirit's job is - to keep you out of sin, to alert you when your sin nature is tempting you, to let you know you have failed the plan of God, when you've committed a sin. Not only does He sustain your spiritual life, but He also helps you comprehend the Scripture if it's taught by a well-qualified pastor (somebody who knows what they are talking about). **Without the filling of the Holy Spirit, we could never ever fulfill the protocol plan of God. It is impossible because that requires a right thing to be done in the right way.** Do you know the key to being filled with the Holy Spirit? Do you understand that? In other words, if I asked you right now, ‘Are you filled with the Spirit right now?’ I don't mean are you foaming at the mouth and beating on a tambourine; that's not what I'm talking about. Are you spiritual or are you carnal? If there is unconfessed sin in your life then you are carnal. If there is no unconfessed sin in your life then you are spiritual. I can hear you already. ‘Wait a minute. How can I keep up with all of my sins?’ Well you can't, obviously. That's why the Bible says, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). All unrighteousness means even the ones you don't remember. **The key to being filled with the Holy Spirit is**

problem-solving device #1 on the FLOT line of your soul. Remember the FLOT Line is ten unique problem-solving devices given by God through His Word to sustain us in this devil's world. When we learn and use these ten problem-solving devices we stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. The first thing every believer must learn is how to stay in fellowship with God using the rebound technique. Therefore, the Bible says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* In the Greek New Testament, "if" is a third class conditional clause. Fulfillment of this condition depends on your volition: maybe you will and maybe you won't. What does the word "confess" mean? That verb is the compound verb *homologeō* (*homo* = the same + *logēō* = to say). The word confess means to say the same. We use *homo* in our American vocabulary in the word homosexual - the same sexually. Here confess means say the same. **When we sin, what does God expect out of us? He does not expect you to cry or mourn or feel sorry for sins. He expects you to name your sin, tell Him what you did.** 'I lied, I lusted, I cheated, I lost my temper.' Whatever you did, tell Him. **When you admit your sin, it allows the Holy Spirit to cleanse you of the sin and to reinstate the filling of the Holy Spirit. When you fail to rebound, even though you are Christian, you are out of fellowship and you are operating in the energy of the flesh.** It is very possible you can go to church. It's very possible you can sing in the choir. It's very possible you can attend Sunday school. It's very possible you can give money in the energy of the flesh because you had unconfessed sin in your life when you did it. The danger of that is it is called human good and is non-rewardable. Anything you do for God outside of His protocol plan is all human good. The protocol plan of God demands you be filled with the Holy Spirit. So if I take those same items (going to church, going to Sunday school, singing in the choir, giving money) and I am filled with the Holy Spirit - which means I have no unconfessed sin in my life - then I am manufacturing divine good and that is rewardable. Again, how can I keep up with my sins? Well, first of all, it's the Holy Spirit's job to let you know when you sin - called your conscience. He will convict you of sin. He will let you know you have sinned. But if you fail to rebound, you may continue to sin and add sin upon sin. Even though you may try to get back to God by going to church and even though you may try to get back to God by praying, unless you go to God and confess the sin you cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit. You say, 'I can't remember every sin I did that got me out of fellowship.' I know that. I've been there. We just name the ones we are aware of and He cleanses us from the ones we don't remember. The idea is, as David said in Psalm 32:3, *"When I kept my mouth shut, I almost died."* Remember he committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, then in order to cover up her pregnancy, David had Uriah murdered. This was David and he didn't tell anybody about it until Nathan showed up and nailed him with it. Nathan said God is aware what you did and you are not hiding it from God. The same is true for you and me. There's not one sin we commit that God is not aware of because He's watching us 24-7. The omniscience of God is aware of everything you and I do. We can't play games with God. Today, this moment, right now you are either in fellowship with God or

you are not. If you are not, you have sin in your life and you haven't confessed it to God. If you are in fellowship, then you have dealt with your sin, you are trying to stay current and you are trying to not let sin take root. Anytime you sin, name it immediately - not when you go to bed at night - immediately. Therefore, you are guaranteed you will be filled with the Holy Spirit. Remember spirituality and maturity are two different things. You can be spiritual but not mature. Maturity is related to the content of the Word of God in your soul. Spirituality is related to the filling of the Holy Spirit. If you are spiritual and wish to be mature then that's why the Holy Spirit is there - to guide you, encourage you, comfort you, help you grow, learn and produce Christlike characteristics in your life. Thus, you need a pastor, a well-qualified pastor to teach you the Bible. As you maintain the filling of the Holy Spirit, as you listen to the ministry of a well-qualified pastor, then you *"grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* Those are Peter's words, 2 Peter 3:18, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15) is what Paul told Timothy. We must study, we must grow and that's only possible through the ministry of the filling of the Holy Spirit. So I hope you are listening. I hope you are getting this. I hope you are learning this. I'll ask you one final time, are you filled with the Holy Spirit right now? If not, go to God the Father, lay it out before Him, admit your sin, and He will be faithful and just to forgive you. God doesn't hold grudges. He still loves you. He hasn't thrown you under the bus. He hasn't forsaken you. He's waiting on you to come back and admit your sin. Stay on top of sin. Don't let sin take root in your life and grow. That's how you stay filled with the Holy Spirit. I hope you are listening. I hope you come back next Sunday, same time, same place, same channel. It is my honor to give you this information. Until then, this is your host, Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

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