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MAY 29, 2995  
KARL SCHAPHORST

1           MR. KARL SCHAPHORST: Now that all has been heard  
2 on the matter, here is the conclusion:

3           Fear God, obey his commandments, for this is the  
4 whole duty of man.

5           Today we're talking about life as it was meant to  
6 be.

7           That verse comes from the book of Ecclesiastes.  
8 That was Solomon. That pretty much sums it up. I think we  
9 can go home now.

10           Well, actually I have a little bit more to say  
11 about it, so I'm not going to let you off that easy.

12           It's interesting how Solomon, who is so wise and so  
13 wealthy, arguably the most wise and wealthy individual to  
14 have ever lived, it is amazing at how powerful he was, he  
15 still could not understand the toils of man; how we go from  
16 one place to the next without a whole lot of meaning.

17           He writes about this in the book of Ecclesiastes  
18 and in the very end he sums it up and he says you know, that  
19 is not life.

20           Life is when we fear God and obey his commandments.  
21 That is our whole duty.

22           So, with that known, what does life look like  
23 today. What does life mean today?

24           Well, let's try this.

25           "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the

1 first heaven and the first earth had passed away and there  
2 was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, the new  
3 Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a  
4 bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a  
5 loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God  
6 is with men and he will live with them. They will be his  
7 people and God himself will be with them and be their God.  
8 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there will be  
9 no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old  
10 order of things has passed away."

11 That sounds like that's life. That really does.  
12 I'm reading from scripture. That's a truth.

13 But I have a feeling that that is kind of a glimpse  
14 to things to come.

15 I read from the book of Revelation, Chapter 21, and  
16 that's after Jesus's coming, that's a glimpse of things to  
17 come.

18 So the question is, what about today? What about  
19 now? What about here? How can we live life as it was meant  
20 to be lived?

21 Well, we can go to the Gospels, because Jesus  
22 certainly talks about this, you can't deny it, there is all  
23 kind of truth in the Gospels about how we should live life.

24 In fact, In the Gospel of John in Chapter 16 he  
25 tells his disciples, "In this world you will have trouble,".

1           Oh, man, you know, why? Here we have this infinite  
2 God, who is all-loving, all-powerful, all-knowing, who  
3 created us, and then he puts us in a world where we are  
4 going to have trouble.

5           I mean, I have a problem with that. We see bad  
6 things happening and we can't help ask, why is God letting  
7 these things happen?

8           I'm going to turn you back to Genesis, because  
9 scripture explains this.

10          I really do believe scripture explains all the  
11 questions we have.

12          We go back to Genesis and we see a creation and we  
13 see man being created in the image of God.

14          And we see that it is good and we see all this and  
15 God gives authority to man over all the creatures of the  
16 land and of the sea and all the birds of the air. He gives  
17 authority over all the earth to man.

18          Well, then what happens? What happens? Satan was  
19 there. Satan tempted and man fell.

20          Man legally gave authority over the earth to Satan.  
21 He legally gave authority of the earth to Satan.

22          Why does Jesus say in this world we will have  
23 trouble?

24          Because Satan has authority over this world. That  
25 is why.

1           We know this to be true, because when Jesus comes,  
2           some people might call him the second Adam, comes into the  
3           world, and after he was baptized, he went out in the desert,  
4           and what did Satan do?

5           Just like he did to Adam in the very beginning.  
6           What did Satan do once Jesus was revealed?

7           He tempted him, because he wanted him to fall, too,  
8           and we know that Satan has authority over all the earth,  
9           because he tested Jesus with it all.

10          "I will give you all the kingdoms of the earth if  
11          you just kneel down and worship me, Jesus."

12          Well, he could not have offered all the world  
13          unless it belonged to Satan, right?

14          So we know that Satan has authority; but we also  
15          know what Jesus did.

16          He rejected Satan. He lived his life on earth  
17          under the authority of Satan but did not fall.

18          In fact, he went to hell, conquered death, and was  
19          gloriously raised to the right hand of our Father.

20          So in the beginning God gave Adam authority over  
21          the earth. Adam legally gave it away.

22          You might ask, why couldn't have God just taken it  
23          right back? He's all-powerful.

24          But, remember, God is righteous. He can't do that.  
25          He can't just take something that was legally gained.

1           But then Jesus comes and he righteously regains  
2 authority.

3           Righteously regains authority. What does that mean  
4 to us?

5           That means with faith, for those who belong to  
6 Jesus, for those who have faith in Jesus, you also conquer  
7 death. You also now have authority in this earth.

8           Do you see what that means? That means if we want  
9 to live life now the way God wants us to live it, even  
10 though there is trouble, Jesus needs to be a part of that.

11           Chapter 16, Verse 33, do you know the second half  
12 of this verse? It's a great memory verse.

13           Do you know the second half of this verse and how  
14 it goes?

15           "In this world you will have trouble, but take  
16 heart, for I have overcome the world."

17           Jesus has overcome the world and, therefore, so can  
18 we. We can overcome the world.

19           This letter that Paul wrote to the Ephesians, it's  
20 a great letter.

21           There is so much in there. This could be six  
22 hours, there is just so much there.

23           Let's have three take-aways from this letter that  
24 Paul writes to Ephesus.

25           Understand that Paul is trying to encourage them,

1 because he sees faith in the Ephesian community and he's  
2 trying to encourage them so they will build upon this faith.

3 All Ephesians is is just a letter of encouragement  
4 and there are three promises I want to focus on.

5 And the first promise comes out of the third  
6 chapter and it goes like this:

7 "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may  
8 strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner  
9 being."

10 Strengthen you with power, with real power, super-  
11 natural power. Why not it being supernatural power?

12 I have a confession to make. I have a confession  
13 to make. I'm a huge Star Wars fan.

14 Sam and I, we have some serious light sabre  
15 battles. I love Star Wars. May the force be with you,  
16 right?

17 I'm not here to teach Star Wars theology, but we  
18 could change that.

19 May the Spirit be with you. May the Spirit be with  
20 you.

21 I did not get permission from Pastor Mark and  
22 Pastor Wenda on this, so this is all me, okay? Mike, are  
23 you ready? Hit it.

24 (Excerpt from Star Wars Played)

25 The Spirit is my ally and a powerful ally it is.

1 You know, Star Wars is fiction, right?

2 Yoda was talking about how life creates the force.  
3 Well, the power I believe in creates life.

4 By the way, I would be all for just forgetting the  
5 rest of this and watching the rest of the movie. Anybody up  
6 for that?

7 (Laughter)

8 That was "The Empire Strikes Back." I love Star  
9 Wars.

10 I was in fourth grade when that came out at the  
11 Indian Hills Theater at 86th and Dodge and it was there for  
12 14 months and I would drive by it every day on the way to  
13 school and always wanted to go see it and would ask can we  
14 go see it tonight? I was really taken by it.

15 When Luke was training to be a Jedi he was moving  
16 this stones around, right? Kind of supernatural.

17 You know what Jesus says? Jesus says with faith  
18 the size of a mustard seed you can move mountains.

19 How much more powerful is the real Spirit that we  
20 have faith in.

21 I'm encouraging you to embrace the mystery of our  
22 faith.

23 Countless times Jesus performs these miracles and  
24 one I remember is when there was a big crowd around him and  
25 this woman was crawling towards him, she was crippled and

1 she couldn't move very well and she just reached out and  
2 grabbed the cloak of Jesus.

3           And do you remember what happened? Energy went  
4 right out of Jesus's body into the body of this crippled  
5 woman and healed her.

6           That's power, that is real power, and one thing  
7 that always seems to be there every time the power of God  
8 works is that there is not only faith in the one that asks  
9 for the power, but there is faith in the one that receives  
10 the power.

11           Jesus is always saying it is your faith that has  
12 set you free, it is your faith that has freed you, that has  
13 made you whole again.

14           There is real power. There is real supernatural  
15 unexplainable power in the Holy Spirit.

16           Believe it. Believe it. Strengthen your faith and  
17 put it to work.

18           I've seen it in my own life. I stand here today as  
19 a witness of that.

20           The second half of this prayer, a lot of times you  
21 have to look at the words that are in here, because I don't  
22 think words just appear for no reason.

23           And when he says, "May he strengthen you with power  
24 through his Spirit in your inner being," that word inner,  
25 why would he say the inner being?

1           Mike, let's go back to that previous slide. I was  
2 going to brush over this because I forget, but I need to  
3 demonstrate to you the power that is written in scripture.

4           There are a number of places that say it.  
5 Colossians is the first one in Chapter 1. Listen to what  
6 Paul writes here.

7           "And we pray this in order that you may live a life  
8 worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way, bearing  
9 fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,  
10 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious  
11 might," and there is a lot of might there, I'm certain of  
12 it, "so that you may have great endurance and patience."

13           If I go to Second Timothy and read there in the  
14 first chapter.

15           "But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by  
16 the power of God who has saved us and called us to a holy  
17 life, not because of anything we have done, but because of  
18 his own purpose and grace."

19           The power of God. It is the power of God.

20           And finally in the book of Ephesians, the book that  
21 we read from in the first chapter, and Pastor Wenda preached  
22 on this last week.

23           "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be  
24 enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he  
25 has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in

1 the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who  
2 believe. That power is like the working of his mighty  
3 strength which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from  
4 the dead."

5 That is power. That is real power. We are heirs  
6 to the throne. That means we are also heirs of that power.  
7 The scripture in Ephesians really opens my eyes.

8 I list three here. It's all over scripture about  
9 the power of God working through us.

10 A little story. A lion, big lion, goes into a  
11 cave, wants to take a nap. So he lays down and takes a nap.

12 And there is a spider in there and this spider says  
13 this lion is going to take a nap. I know what I'll do. I  
14 will trap him in this cave. I'll spin a web over the  
15 entrance and he'll never get out.

16 So the spider starts spinning after the lion goes  
17 to sleep and he spins and he spins and he spins and he  
18 spins, spins himself almost to death.

19 And then morning comes and he's watching and the  
20 lion wakes and he roars and shakes the foundations of the  
21 earth and then the lion walks out of his cave not even  
22 knowing there is a web there.

23 That's exactly what Jesus did when he walked out of  
24 the grave.

25 Satan tries to snare us, he tries to trap us, he

1 tries to get us to do things against the Spirit because he  
2 knows that will sabotage the power, the real power that will  
3 allow you to break through the snare of Satan in any  
4 circumstance. That's what he does.

5 But the power of the Holy Spirit is so far  
6 infinitely greater than the power that Satan has, so put it  
7 to work.

8 Then I'm certain you will begin to live life as it  
9 was meant to be, even though you will have trouble.

10 Now let's go to the next part of the scripture.  
11 This word inner had me intrigued I didn't know why it was  
12 there, so I was studying, I meditated on it, and this is  
13 what I come up with.

14 I think Paul recognized that there are really two  
15 parts to ourselves.

16 There is the external part, right? Behavior;  
17 appearance; the words we say; the works we do.

18 People can see that and they can cast judgment  
19 based on that stuff, good or bad.

20 And then there's the other part, the inner part,  
21 the part that I think Paul is talking about, which is our  
22 attitude, our self-esteem, our self-worth, if you will, our  
23 faith, our spirituality.

24 On the external side many times we can fake it,  
25 right?

1           You can come across as being happy and joyous and  
2 whatever, even though on the inside you are kind of torn up.

3           But I guarantee you, if that's the way you are  
4 running, there is not going to be a lot of power there.

5           Paul recognizes that it's not just the external  
6 things, the works, even though that's important, but it's  
7 the inside that is really important and you have to win that  
8 battle first. You have the win that battle first.

9           We grow up and we start doing things and people see  
10 it and then they start casting judgment.

11           That's what the world does. That was great. You  
12 really did a good job on that, and then what is tempting for  
13 us to do?

14           It's tempting for us to say yeah, I'm pretty good.  
15 I'm pretty good, and then that's pride, pride is talked  
16 about in scripture, that's not a good thing.

17           On the other side you might do something and  
18 rightfully be judged as a failure.

19           Understand, if we fail people can tell us and if  
20 it's the truth, let it be the truth. We can fail.

21           Luke in Star Wars certainly failed. You saw that  
22 in the show, okay?

23           We can fail and then what happens is the world  
24 tells us that we are a failure.

25           And what we do with that is what is not healthy

1 because we will take that and internalize it and think we  
2 are worth less than what God thinks we are worth.

3 Imagine if you were holding a newborn baby in your  
4 arms and you looked at that baby.

5 And the baby can't do anything. The baby can't do  
6 anything. Right?

7 It can move, but it can't feed itself, can't do any  
8 chores around the house, can't do any of those things.

9 But what is the value we place on that baby?  
10 Because we don't look at the external side.

11 We see now what is on the inside, because there is  
12 nothing on the outside hiding it.

13 All we see is the pure spirit and power of God  
14 inside that child and the value we put on there is infinite.

15 Then what happens? We get older, and we listen to  
16 the world instead of listening to the Spirit and then we  
17 sabotage the Spirit of power that is in us, because we think  
18 that we are less.

19 God always sees us as precious. In fact, I will go  
20 to a Psalm that David wrote. He knew about this.

21 In Psalm 72, "He will rescue them from oppression  
22 and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight."

23 It's not precious are their works, or precious is  
24 their praise; it's the blood.

25 There is life in the blood, and that will be the

1 truth for all time.

2 So recognize that God loves you and you are  
3 precious in his sight no matter where you are.

4 And no matter where you are you can use the power  
5 of the Spirit. So may the Spirit be with you.

6 I go to the next promise, promise number two. In  
7 the book of Ephesians this is what Paul writes.

8 "That you may be filled to the measure of all  
9 fullness of God."

10 Now what does that mean? I've read this book  
11 before, you just kind of read over it, but if you stop and  
12 really think what does that mean? What is being taught  
13 here?

14 I have a little demonstration here to try to maybe  
15 help you understand maybe what it means to be filled to the  
16 measure of all fullness.

17 This cup represents me. See how transparent it is.  
18 If I'm hurting on the inside, you see right through that.

19 I cannot fake it very well. In fact, a lot of us  
20 are transparent vessels.

21 God wants us to be transparent. God want us to let  
22 the inside be expressed to everyone.

23 And then what happens is here I am, and I don't  
24 know if you can read this, this is a picture and it has the  
25 world on it.

1           So here I am and I grow up. God sees me precious,  
2 but then I grow up and I take a job, love my job, boy, do I  
3 love my job, make good money, and it fills my glass. That's  
4 good, right?

5           And then I take on a family and have children and  
6 the children have baseball and swimming and so that fills up  
7 a glass a little bit more.

8           And golf, I love golf, got to have golf in my life,  
9 got to do the golf.

10          Well, I really like some shows during the week.  
11 They're some good TV shows, make some room for that.

12          A little project in my house, I'm going to do some  
13 of that.

14          And let's have a party with the neighbors, that  
15 will be fun.

16          And then after a while you make a pretty big mess  
17 of things.

18          You fill yourself up with all this stuff and you  
19 make a pretty big mess and you have to clean it up.

20          So here is what the scripture might be teaching us,  
21 is that you take this, and you dump some of it out.

22          For me it was a rearrangement of my priorities.  
23 This is a confession up here.

24          This is the way I was before Christ and the way I  
25 am after Christ.

1           Maybe what we need to do is dump out some of this  
2 stuff and start filling it with living water, like this,  
3 with the Holy Spirit.

4           What does that mean? Well, I started reading  
5 scripture. I memorize scripture. I meditate on it.

6           I never really prayed much, but I pray a lot now.  
7 I pray and I dwell with God and He with me.

8           And notice that the Holy Spirit just keeps going  
9 and the cup overflows.

10           "Lord, you prepare a table in the presence of my  
11 enemies. You anoint my head with oil and my cup overflows."

12           This is okay. There is no mess in my life. This  
13 is good. The Spirit is supposed to overflow in us.

14           Now here is an important take-away. If I let this  
15 sit for a long time this water will get stagnant.

16           Paul says, "I pour myself out like a drink  
17 offering."

18           So when you are filled with the Spirit, then pour  
19 it out by teaching the younger children.

20           Pour it out by helping out with the Bolivian street  
21 children.

22           Pour it out by helping your neighbors or teaching a  
23 Sunday school class or being Jesus to the world.

24           Pour out that spirit. I guarantee you you will be  
25 living life the way God meant it to be, even though you will

1 have trouble.

2 But to be overflowed with the Holy Spirit, you know  
3 when it happens.

4 You know it when it happens, because it is like  
5 life you've never experienced before.

6 I will admit that this weekend I have been  
7 overflowing with the Spirit and it's a wonderful place to  
8 be, and I wish it would stay like that all the time, but I  
9 tell you what, it can be draining, but to allow the Spirit  
10 to overflow, that's where the blessings are.

11 That's where we can live life the way it is meant  
12 to be lived.

13 What is the litmus test for this, do you suppose?  
14 How do we know that we are really living for God?

15 Well, Jesus tells us if you find yourself loving  
16 life, remember, Satan has authority over this world, we are  
17 not home yet, our home is in heaven in the holy tabernacle.  
18 That is our home.

19 So if we find ourselves loving life too much, then  
20 we ought to check our priorities and see where God fits  
21 there.

22 This next slide is a bit of scripture out of the  
23 Gospel of John.

24 "The man who loves his life will lose it, while the  
25 man who hates his life in this world will keep it forever."

1           What he's saying is those who are focused on "me"  
2           are missing the whole point of living life the way it was  
3           meant to be.

4           We need to be fixed on everyone else in our  
5           community.

6           Don't worry. God will take care of you, right?

7           Yes. Yes.

8           Let's take a look at the third and final promise in  
9           the Book of Ephesians.

10          In the last part of that scripture that we read it  
11          says this:

12                 "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more  
13                 than all we ask for, according to his power," and there is a  
14                 lot of power there, "that is at work within us."

15          To him who is able. Again, what does that mean?  
16          You know, I have experienced in my walk that when I ask for  
17          a blessing or I take a step of faith God always seems to  
18          exceed what I would ever ask of him to do.

19                 He will do more, much more, immeasurably more,  
20                 meaning you can't fathom how much more he will do for us if  
21                 we just ask.

22          There was a book written a while ago by Bruce  
23          Wilkinson son about the Prayer of Jabez in First or Second  
24          Chronicles, I'm not sure which, but the prayer goes like  
25          this.

1           "Bless me, Oh Lord, enlarge my territory, let your  
2 hand be with me to keep me free from harm and free from  
3 pain."

4           It's a powerful prayer, I use that a lot. There is  
5 power in that prayer.

6           But in the story he illustrates this scene where  
7 we're in heaven and we're looking around and in the corner  
8 we see this big box that has our name on it and we ask  
9 Jesus, "Jesus, what is this box over here?"

10           "That's a box full of blessings."

11           "Blessings? What are they doing sitting here in  
12 the box?"

13           And Jesus says, "Well, they were never used. They  
14 were never asked for. Those were all the blessings I had  
15 planned for you, but they were never used."

16           God wants us to bless us, but I don't think he's  
17 just sitting up there doling out blessings just because we  
18 say Lord bless us.

19           What he's doing is he's watching our faith. He  
20 wants to know if our hearts, if the inner side of us is  
21 right.

22           And I think he's encouraging the Ephesians to take  
23 the risk, take that step, take the step of faith, and watch  
24 what I will do right behind you. Watch what I will do.

25           Five years ago I was not a church man. I was not a

1 church man. I came to church because it just seemed like a  
2 good thing to do.

3 I was not a church man. When I found Jesus and  
4 caught on fire I started taking some risks.

5 I never dreamed that he would bless me the way he  
6 has in all parts of my life.

7 I mean, it's like my job, I still work, but it's  
8 now for God's glory.

9 My priorities have been rearranged and I have been  
10 blessed there, because God saw that as a risk.

11 I have a lot more time with my children and it's  
12 just wonderful and I get a sense that I'm not there yet, but  
13 I'm on the right track living life here the way God intended  
14 for all of us to live it.

15 Ask for his blessing, take the risk, and just see  
16 happens.

17 If there is anything you can put God to the test  
18 on, I would put challenge you to put him to the test on that  
19 and see what happens.

20 So, now that all has been heard, and all has been  
21 heard, it's all right here, all has been heard, here is the  
22 conclusion of the matter.

23 Fear God. Love Jesus. Have an intimate  
24 relationship with him, an intimate personal relationship  
25 with him, so that the power of the Holy Spirit can be at

1 your command, the supernatural power I'm talking about, the  
2 real power that is in the Spirit.

3 Love Jesus so that he will fill you to the point  
4 where you are overflowing, it's a great place to be, and  
5 then pour that out like a drink offering on everyone around  
6 you and see how God will bless you, because I know he will  
7 surpass anything you can imagine.

8 Obey his commandments, for this is the whole duty  
9 of man. Let us pray.

10 Lord Jesus, we are grateful and we have come before  
11 you today to listen to your words and to feel the power of  
12 your word in these walls.

13 Lord Jesus, you do tell us that we will have  
14 trouble, but through the power of Holy Spirit we can  
15 overcome because you overcame.

16 Lord Jesus, we will have trouble, and it's on this  
17 weekend that I am so grateful for our men and women in arms  
18 who keep the trouble here in this country at a minimum.

19 I'm so grateful for their sacrifice and their  
20 service. I pray you would bless them and their families.

21 Lord, may your power be at work in us. May you  
22 heal us.

23 May you strengthen our inner parts so that we may  
24 externally do great things.

25 Lord Jesus, help us to appreciate how wide, how

1 deep, how long is your love.

2           May you fill us until we are overflowing, and may  
3 you pour us out again and fill us up again, Lord Jesus, I  
4 pray. May you do more than we could ever ask.

5           I pray this all in the name of our glorious and  
6 precious Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

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