

1Tim 24-05-22b

We are ready now to resume our study. We're looking at First Sympathy chapter 4. We're looking at the description of latter times When people depart from faith, this is the scary part It isn't that people won't come to faith or that they will be duped into false worship They will depart from the faith start out in the faith start out as believers looking at the Word of God Having the resources that God provides the 36 things you get at the point of salvation you start out with all of that and depart Get waylaid Diverted knocked off the narrow road and nowhere near the straight gate that leads to life We are people of faith, and we don't want to depart from it nobody Wakes up in the morning and says well, I think I'll depart from the faith today It happens by deception by delusion by the crafty manipulations of the enemy so to be aware is our goal watch and pray that's Half the battle right there is to realize that there is an active intentional campaign to Find faithful believers and get them to depart from the faith, and it has been hugely successful in recent years and in many cases it is an attack from within our fellow believers get a notion or have an insight or have a lightbulb moment where They now have figured out the faith and you end up with a book or a series of books and Elizabeth and I have been Especially interested in the reinterpretation of revelation and Patty and Elizabeth, and I have had a number of very interesting observations and Investigations into this trend there have been a rash of books In the last few years that have come out Knocking The legs out from under a classic understanding of the book of Revelation and in so doing attacking everything from dispensations to Normal biblical hermeneutics and Redefining This largely in a preterist sense If you ever took Spanish and they talk about the preterite. I think that's where I first learned about the preterite Preterism says that revelation is not predictive it is historical that John was writing a an allegorical and metaphorical account of current events and that these things were fulfilled in the first century of this era so the beast is Nero the you know, the the woman who sits on seven hills.

This is Rome and Babylon is Rome and and All mainly And and not that there is not an allusion and a first blush reference to those things in the book But it reminds me of in In seminary and later on at a Bible conference. I had two different Major pieces of scripture that were reinterpreted as This only ever meant the first Application the first fulfillment and it has no future Reflection, it's not prophetic. It's historical.

They taught us this in seminary Dallas seminary of all places that Nothing is in the scripture that the original writer didn't understand Nobody wrote stuff down that they didn't understand So if they didn't under if Daniel didn't understand that the that the fourth beast referred to the Roman Empire then that's not what it refers to because he couldn't have understood that and It's it's the most harebrained crazy thing. I ever heard of God is imparting Inspired truth to be written down by faithful prophets and Apostles But if they can't understand it when they're writing it down, then it doesn't have any divine content beyond what they were able to grasp and The scriptures itself belied that notion remember when Daniel has a revelation and he gets sick and he says I don't understand what it means Gabriel is is there and he says well, I'll tell you part of it But that laid

the foundation and then later on you have I had the president of a very well-known seminary come to a Bible conference and Say that when you go to Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 and it says how that our fault fallen from heaven That this wasn't talking about an angelic event. It's not talking about Satan that this that the king of Tyre really is the king of Tyre and only the king of Tyre and that it that all of these allusions are just metaphors for current events and it isn't trying to tell us anything about The heavenly history the angelic past or future and all I can say is Good luck with that when we went through Those prophetic books and saw that it's not just the burden to the king of Tyre it is every nation reflects a facet of God's dealing with the angels both unfallen and fallen and it provides Human allegories that teach us truths about what has taken place in heaven and what is going to take place That having been said we are Not going to be deflected or deceived by these in-house attacks on the inspiration of revelation for example There is a book reading revelation Responsibly, there's another one revelation for the rest of us and there's another one Elizabeth just got and is reading by Elaine Pagel, I think's her name All three of these take the same tack.

It's it's preterist that we're misunderstanding it people lighting their hair on fire and you know the left-behind series and the late great planet Earth and look at the abuse and the the hyperventilating and and unwarranted excitement about the rapture and You know, look how these people have been disappointed and setting dates for the return of Christ and have those things taken place absolutely Does it mean that the scripture is therefore at fault and shouldn't be understood to be prophetic? No, the failures of men don't undermine the inspiration of the text This is something Bart Ehrman and a raft of others don't understand just because a text is misused doesn't mean that that misuse in and of itself All such notions must be cast aside. Well, they thought it was prophetic and they Misinterpreted it so it's not prophetic. That's not even a logical must much less valid so One of the ways that we are attacked from within is to Undercut and undermine the inspiration of Scripture Jesus said if you've seen me, you've seen the Father Jesus never judged anyone Jesus never executed anyone Jesus never took up a sword against anyone therefore Any portrayal in the Bible that depicts God as judgmental or a God of war or the Lord of hosts? for crying out loud Is a misunderstanding and shouldn't be taken seriously so Joshua and the conquest of Canaan This is a horrible thing and should be ignored.

This was early Old Testament Priests and Yahweh's and Elohist's Feeling the elephant and only getting the tail or only getting the trunk or only getting an ear the the blind men of Hindustan Idea, and they didn't really know what they were talking about. They meant well, but they messed it up and you can't take those accounts Seriously you've got to wait for Jesus and the words of Jesus at least the ones that we like these are the ones that are going to define Christianity and The early church decided that they wanted to try to validate the Old Testament So they put some words in Jesus mouth that aren't really there So or or they're an allegory in a metaphor and Jesus isn't really gonna send the goats into eternal fire He's he's the the parable where You know bring my enemies and slay them before me that wasn't Jesus somebody added that So the Bible is only inspired in spots and you've got to trust me to tell you where those spots are Take my word

for it. These other things aren't Bible Attacks from within we also have attack by distortion and There are newer versions of this I'll give you a couple of the of the timeless classics in this regard I Will mention a few and I'll describe one in a bit more detail because it's representative of them all But there was a time in my lifetime where spirit controlled temperaments and Tim LaHaye Tim and Beverly LaHaye were behind this and The key to the Christian life is understanding your temperament are you a melancholy or a phlegmatic or a choleric or a sanguine and Then they would go to the Bible and say notice this particular character was a choleric look at the anger look at the the inability to control wrath This one is a sanguine too easygoing Here's a melancholic David was a melancholic and he got depressed and and was full of angst and and And and so on and well, and and if you find two of those characteristics, sometimes you're giddy and sometimes you're depressed well, you're you're both you're a you're a melancholy and you're a phlegmatic or a choleric or whatever and You you just adopt the labels to fit what you already are and the label doesn't actually help it doesn't come from the Bible But this is put for the key to success in the Christian life Figure out your love language is a more recent one.

If you just know the language of love this is going to figure everything out If you read some of these and like them Apologies, I'm just telling you that that while interesting and perhaps even helpfully descriptive There is no power in human writing. There is no power in human observation I've got a two-and-a-half-inch thick book which was a gift and I'm thankful for it Called atlas of the heart by some gal named Brown if I remember right read the thing Torture, but it was a gift. I read the entire thing atlas of the heart descriptive in the extreme helpful Not one whit This is like saying, you know smoking causes cancer to somebody that's got a three-pack-a-day habit Even if what you say is true, you're describing it provides no power to do anything about it now I can be depressed because I've got something that people know about Other people have got it and they haven't licked it either it's the the the The prayer of Jabez Remember that Oh the pray the prayer of Jabez Expand my borders or whatever.

I don't even remember what it was now The Bible codes did you know that if you take the Hebrew and String it backward and count every third syllable. It'll spell Hebrew words. Listen, I could throw Hebrew letters at the wall and Make entire Hebrew paragraphs out of the resulting mishmash of letters.

There's only 22 letters and each word only has three letters and There's I don't know five or six thousand Hebrew words in total So you're bound to get words you're bound to get the and then you read them into you know, like Nostradamus look it's prophetic. It's saying something but it's always looking back if it was really useful It would tell me what's gonna happen tomorrow not look 9-11. It says 9-11 is gonna happen look, it's the Hebrew for New York and It's craziness but this is by two and four Christians Bible codes You've got to believe that there's something inspired about the Bible to believe that the codes are gonna help you and that God is Encrypted information that you know, let him who has wisdom figure it out There is purpose driven purpose driven life Here's

40 days each day.

You read a chapter and find out God's purpose for you And by finding out God's purpose, by the way that we're coming right back to first Timothy 4 So if you wonder why I'd be laboring this we're going to see a an incredibly stark Galactic Difference in what Paul says and what these programs say Paul doesn't say spend 40 days like 40 days and 40 nights Looking for your purpose It doesn't say experiencing God experiencing God is the one I'm going to pick on because I Patty and I actually made it partway through before they kicked us out The Seven realities of experiencing God These are the keys notice the the numbers are always biblical 40 chapters for the purpose-driven life because 40s a mystically spiritually powerful number so 40 days and 48 Jesus was in the wilderness the You know the it rained for 40 days and 40 is 40 is going to do it for you Here are the seven realities of experiencing God now What's our study what are we? watching for with AI and all of these others tools that can be used to deceive and to fool and to misrepresent Well seven realities of experiencing God just in the title. These are realities take my word for it This is the real deal right here. It isn't seven observations.

Not seven thoughts seven suggestions It always cracked me up when people said, you know, it's not the ten suggestions. It's the Ten Commandments But seven realities of experiencing God Henry and Richard Blackaby and Claude King number one God is always at work around you and they quote John 15 5 now I Love John. I love chapter 14 and 15 and 16 and 17, especially it's it's the beating heart of the gospel of John John 15 5 Jesus says I am the vine you are the branches if a man Abides in me and I in him he will bear much fruit For apart from me you can do nothing Abide in me let my words abide in you, right? After blackaby gets through with this this supports the point God is always at work around you Well in context God is chopping branches off that are unfruitful You know he's gonna work his way around to join God in his work the work that I see God doing on the vine in the branches is Chopping off the unfruitful ones so that the fruitful ones can bear more fruit So if I'm going to join God in the work that Jesus describes, what am I going to do? I'm gonna find some unfruitful believers and chop them off Weed them out Kick them out Break fellowship be gone get the hints you're banished You're yeah, we're not talking to you anymore.

You're unfruitful Wow That's the supporting verse for God is at work around you number two God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal God pursues a continuing love relationship with you The supporting verse is John 17 verse 3. This is eternal life Jesus praying to the Father this is eternal life father that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent Somehow the Fact that eternal life is in knowing and believing the Father and the Son Now becomes God is pursuing a continuing love relationship with me. That is real and personal You remember my oft referenced illustration that you can take a picture with your phone and Then they've got these funny filters that will make the ears big and the eyes small Make the nose big and the mouth small every pixel in the altered photo is from the original what has changed? Emphasis is Is it a true picture of me with big ears a big nose little mouth, you

know bug eyes or squinty eyes or you know giant hair or Shrink the top of my head down to a point Every Pixel is from the original but it becomes grotesquely Unrepresentative and unrealistic by exaggeration and minimization, right? This can happen with the Word of God. You can quote scripture all day long Quoting a scripture Can be an exaggeration if it is not balanced by what's in the rest of the picture If it doesn't occupy its proper place and it's proper proportion and it's proper relationship and context in the Word of God this is why we Try really hard to never just proof text quote a verse and move on unless we've recently covered its context So Who is it that pursues a loving relationship with whom What is the first and greatest commandment in the entire Bible Be aware that God loves you and is pursuing an active personal relationship with you.

That is real Is that the first great commandment what you need to know first and foremost Oh Pharisees Oh people This is the Lord Jesus talking All the law and the prophets can be summed up with the first commandment God pursues a continuing loving relationship with you. Is that what it says? Thou shalt love the Lord your God you throw your heart your soul your mind your strength into loving him This is a very insidious and deceptive Deflection of responsibility for me to cultivate love for God into sitting still and letting God pursue a relationship with me Who is approaching whom who's doing the work here? It's grotesque It's blasphemy. I am so important that God is continually pursuing a loving relationship with me He wants it to be real and personal He's interested in me.

He loves me just as I am without one plea That is not the emphasis of Scripture, is it true that God Desires a loving relationship. Is it true that we hope that there is a Reciprocal relationship of the Word of God and prayer and so on Absolutely, but to blow this out of proportion and not even mention my responsibility to cultivate knowledge and love of him is Deceptive Number three one Notice who's who's active and who's passive here even in the title experiencing God I Can I can sit in a chair and experience the temperature I can experience the sunshine I can experience the television I can experience the conversation and movements of people around me. It's innately inherently passive At the outset God is always at work around you watch him go Number two God pursues a continuing love relationship with you.

That is real and personal. He's actively trying to get you going here You're you're the stick in the mud Number three God invites you to become involved with him in his work No No What does the Bible say in Genesis chapter 1? What did God do on the seventh day? God rested from his work Now Jesus will say my father is at work, and I am at work But Jesus didn't include an invitation he didn't say My father is working and I am working join us come on in The fact that we're divine and omniscient and omnipotent is Have the full orb'd power and presence of the Holy Spirit at our disposal to create worlds and save Those who will express faith and accept the invitation The invitation is not to join God in his work. The Command is to do our assigned work We're not invited to climb up there and try to operate things from heaven with God That's God's work God ordains God commands if you understand the book of Revelation do you notice that there's a voice that comes out of the throne room and says make things happen and people do it

God doesn't speak from the heavenly throne and invite the angels to join him in his work the Lord Jesus Christ Never once invited the disciples to join him in his work He gave them directives.

He gave them commands Go and here's how you go. Don't take an extra staff If a city doesn't accept you shake the dust off your feet if you come to a place and someone invites you in stay there and don't hop around and so on It's not an invitation It is a calling it is a command. It is a mission and And They quote here John 14 21 one of my favorite and most oftenly quoted Verses whoever has my commands and obeys them He is the one who loves me he who loves me will be loved by my father I too will love him and reveal myself to him Where's the invitation Where where is the invitation if you have my commands and obey them if you receive my invitation and accept it Is not there Distortion subtle but profound God invites you to become involved with him in his work.

It's blasphemy. You can't join God in his work I can do the work that God assigns me. I Can't do the work that God assigns me and you're gonna bear fruit because of your Connection to the vine not because you're joining the vine in its work number four God speaks pay attention now God speaks by the Holy Spirit.

Are we good so far? Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth. He'll bring to your mind the things that I've said, right? Good so far if he had just stopped Hit the period key God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible Are we still good? comma still good prayer Tell me how God speaks by the Holy Spirit through prayer if you and I are having a conversation and I am speaking and Then you start speaking, how am I speaking while you're speaking? When I'm speaking Words are going toward you when you're speaking words are coming toward me but I don't speak to you through you're speaking to me and You don't speak to me by me speaking to you But allegedly God speaks by the Holy Spirit through prayer Give me a verse that says that and behold as Daniel bowed his knees to pray he suddenly Realized that his prayer had given him his answer The Holy Spirit used his prayer to inform Daniel of what the meaning of the vision was. It's just it's nonsensical God speaks we listen our prayer is a reflection of what he has told us in the past But he doesn't speak to us through prayer People believe that prayer creates a mystical atmosphere and That somehow as we are praying Voices will be heard insights will be granted the Bible never says this Paul doesn't say and behold as I was praying I suddenly realized the book of Ephesians.

It just it doesn't happen that way so Negatory on prayer God speaks by the Holy Spirit through circumstances Yes, or no does God speak through circumstances Turn with me if you're in Timothy, otherwise, I'll just read it in Hebrews chapter 11 You remember this is one of our signature chapters for memory purposes This is the faith by faith this guy that guy in the other guy, right? And you get down to verse 32 What more shall I say? Time would fail me to tell of Gideon Barak Samson Jephthah David Samuel and the prophets who through faith now look Here are things that happen through faith subdued kingdoms worked righteousness obtained promises stopped the mouths of lions Quenched the violence of fire escaped the edge of the

sword out of weakness were made strong became valiant in battle turned to flight the armies of the aliens One know how to fix the border Verse 35 women received their dead raised to life again notice I Must be doing it right because I'm putting to flight armies of aliens. I'm receiving the dead back to life out of weakness I'm strong, etc. All of these things.

These are circumstantial affirmations that faith is working, right? And it and if if Paul had stopped there He might have a point But keep reading others were tortured Not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a better resurrection still others had trial of mockings and scourgings Chains and imprisonment they were stoned they were sawn in two they were tested were slain with the sword They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins destitute afflicted and tormented So if God guides through circumstances, what would that circumstance tell you I'm destitute afflicted and tormented Obviously, I'm doing something wrong. I Right So what is the truth God speaks by the Holy Spirit through dot-dot-dot circumstances What is the truth here God speaks as We respond to circumstances and we go to the Word of God for guidance in circumstance Do I continue? even though I am Destitute afflicted and tormented The circumstance doesn't communicate that I am wrong or I am right what the Word of God Encourages me in the hands of the Holy Spirit to do in these circumstances What does Ecclesiastes say? There's a time for a thing and there is a time for its exact opposite. There's a time to scatter and there's a time to gather There's a time to break and there's a time to heal In a given circumstance, how do I know which one is right? I don't learn that from the circumstance.

I Learn it from the Word of God and prayer By a conscience that tells me right from wrong good from bad in Whatever circumstance I find myself Paul says I know how to be Abased and I know how to abound in whatever circumstance I'm content why I Have a conscience That tells me I am doing what God wants me to do God does not speak via the Holy Spirit through Circumstances. Well, if you're ever in this circumstance God is telling you X If you're ever in that circumstance God is telling you Y or Z Circumstances are not the measure It is what we are Exhorted to do what we are guided to do in Circumstances and that doesn't come from the circumstance. It comes from the Word of God the Word of God in prayer This circumstance is telling me something it's not so it is not Prayer it is not circumstances.

God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the church to reveal himself How dangerous is this what if it's Church capital C Catholic Church Well, God uses the Catholic Church. The Holy Spirit tells them what to Ordain and what and what to do and and so we listen to the church The church tells me so I should do it Cursed is a man who trusts in man who makes flesh his arm his strength His heart departs from the Lord. You're going to be a shrub in the desert You're not going to see good when it comes if you look to people now Are there resources in the church? Are there people in the church who can speak the truth in love? Sure How do I know that this particular person's truth is the one I should listen to how do I know whether or not this? counsel this guidance this thought this Application of the Word of God from a fellow believer in the church, even if it is the pastor How do I know that that is pertinent and applicable to me? Because the pastor said it because

someone in the church said it because it's church policy or church guidance Thou shalt not go see the Exorcist.

It's a bad movie Thou shalt not go see thou shalt not go do thou shalt not eat this or marry that the church says so Again God Speaks through his Holy Spirit and his word if someone Mentions the word talks about the word mentions a passage that was helpful to them God the Holy Spirit will tell me just as with circumstances whether that word is something that I need to heed or Whether it is off the mark and it is well intentioned Heedless blunder somebody is trying to encourage me, but they really don't know what they're talking about They're quoting a verse, but it doesn't apply. It's not the right word at the right time We can Be aware certainly of circumstances we can be aware of our church and the people within the church But we do not take a word of advice or counsel To the bank because it came from the church or because it came from the pastor Your authority is not the pastor your authority is not the church your authority is not circumstance it is the power of God through the Spirit of God and the Word of God and regardless of its source you cannot rely on it until you have prayed to God and the Word of God returns from the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ a Word fitly spoken will resonate God the Holy Spirit will approve it authenticate it drive it home like a peg in a Round peg in a round hole and we will know the truth and that truth will deliver us and set us free Jesus said You'll know the truth Because your good conscience God the Holy Spirit will speak to your conscience and tell you you know that that Word spoken in love that truth spoken in love from a fellow believer in the church That's the real deal you should listen to that not because they said it but because the Holy Spirit affirms it Because it matches my good conscience my pure heart and my genuine faith It comports it makes sense it resonates. You will know You have a truth detector, and you will know not because of the source But because of the provision of God the power of God in our soul So point for God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible yes prayer no circumstances No, the church know to reveal himself his purposes and his ways God reveals his character his purpose and his way in the scriptures in the hands of the Holy Spirit and That can be written with a sharpie on a bathroom wall it can be in a printed Bible it can come through a message a sermon a book Truth spoken in love by a fellow believer it can come from anywhere But where it comes from isn't what matters? it's what the Holy Spirit says about it when you hear it when you reflect on it when you pray about it and Go to the father and say is this bread He will let us know yes Go with that That's it do that Well, this is what happens with human Reimagination of the Word of God 0.5 in purpose-driven, I'll give you these in just a minute God's invitation for you to work with him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action and And he cites Hebrews chapter 11 No, it doesn't result in a crisis sometimes.

It is simple Responding to guidance and light on the path always what if I don't feel a crisis if I got to wait until I have a crisis and It is a distortion of These examples in Hebrews 11 number 6 you must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what he is doing a I Know better than to try to join God in what he is doing. God is at work in me too Willing to do for his good purpose. I'm not at work joining him to try to get his good purpose done You must make major adjustments in

your life Not if I'm walking by faith and not by sight not if I'm doing what I'm supposed to if I am Sanctifying myself by the Word of God in prayer if I'm keeping short accounts if I've got a pure heart a good conscience and a Sincere faith.

I don't need to make a major adjustment. I need to continue to march I need to persevere you have need of endurance so that after you have suffered a while you receive the promises you inherit them Make major adjustments. It's crazy and 0.7 the magical 0.7 you come to know God by Experiences as you obey him and he accomplishes his work through you balderdash To put it mildly You come to know God by experiences as you obey him What did Jesus just say in the gospel of John? this is followed by Two and a half pages of testimony Here's how I experienced God through my ministry transition.

I met my wife. We did this We did that the other and just rambles on and on and on and it's totally unhelpful This is the difference between the Word of God Sanctifying us giving us a clear operating conscience to know his will and to do it to be steadfast to be steady to be stable to be founded on the rock and a human program that says I've got to get out and get busy. I need to be elbows and knees to join God in his work and to pray the prayer and to figure out my temperament and find my gift and give it a name and Learn a love language and do this and do that and do the other What we need is the Word of God.

What we need is to cultivate the presence and the power and The guidance of the Holy Spirit That's how Jesus lived his life and he did the Father's will and not his own We abide in him. He is the vine. We are the branches we abide we remain We are the lamp that sits on its lampstand and lets the energy of God the combustion Power of the Holy Spirit the oil in the lamp does all the work.

The lamp doesn't light itself The light comes from another source the oil comes from another source the lamp just has to sit there and not move not break and do its job and Let God guide There'll be times when we're involved in intense activity and somebody could look and say well, looky there Sam's joined God in his work. I Am following the guidance from the Word of God with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit prayerfully thoughtfully Constantly reflecting on the Word of God Examining myself to make sure I'm in the faith That I am doing what I do Hardly as unto the Lord and not unto men. I have plenty of ways to check my conscience through the Word of God and through the Spirit Not by going back and checking the seven steps in a book or the 40 chapters of a different book Paul emphasizes that in 1st Timothy chapter 4 and In verse 6 he says to him if you instruct the brethren in these things you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ Nourished in the words of faith and the good doctrine which you have carefully followed That is a verse you could read every morning for the next week Be instructed in these good things The goal of our instruction is love the measure if it's working is love and That's going to manifest itself in all kinds of wonderful activities that bless others, but we don't start with the activity We're not simulating or emulating Anything it is genuine because it comes from inside One who instructs the brethren in these things is a good minister of Jesus Christ Nourished in the words of faith and

the good doctrine which you have carefully followed nourished built up strengthened guided enabled empowered It's the words of God it is doctrine it is the Word of God in prayer It is a pure heart a good conscience and a sincere faith well this should Enable us to weed out the constant stream of Operations directed against us both from inside and outside the church to depart from the Word of God to lose confidence in it to take it lightly to dismiss it as Not valid and not pertinent to have an expectation for the future and so on well We'll pick up here next time, but we'll close for now in a word of prayer Father thank you that you have not left us orphans you have come to us in the person and power of the Holy Spirit the truth of your word that is living and powerful that enables us to See our thoughts and intents evaluated and exposed and corrected the instruction and the rebuke that we receive through your word is sufficient in Every area of life.

We thank you for it. We thank you for the example of the Lord Jesus who is the first Human being to live fully in and through this wonderful enablement and provision We pray that we can follow his example in being led by the Word and the Spirit That we can reflect your glory and his glory in the time that remains to us in this life. We ask it in Jesus name Amen Good to see you David