

Philippians 10-07-30b

Let's pick up our study now in the book of Philippians chapter 3. We're looking at the word destruction in verse 19 whose end is Destruction and this was the first Description of these people over whom Paul is weeping and I mentioned that it's my belief that we are Being Given an example of wayward believers here wayward putting it mildly and It does not specifically state that and you can find those who think that this must be unbelievers because their end is destruction and Surely believers who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ would not be destroyed I'll just quickly summarize the the reasons. I'm Convinced that this is in fact talking about believers First of all when Paul as I've already mentioned, he says note those who are walking a certain way in Verse 17 join in following my example and note those who so walk So when you look around in the church, you're going to see certain ones who so walk You wouldn't be looking in the world at large You would be looking by definition in the fellowship for those who so walk And that you have as a as a type and so having looked and found some in the group who walk this way and are following this example that Paul reflects many Walk and you get the idea that this these are some of the others You've got walkers. Everybody is walking.

Everybody is living a lifestyle. Everybody is Perry Pat Owing in The church at one end of the spectrum You've got these that are really exemplifying the mind of Christ at the other end You have these that he is now describing Instead of being those who are like Christ who are going to rule and reign with Christ who are going to share his destiny You've got these at the opposite end of the spectrum who are in fact enemies of the cross If you flip back a few pages to Galatians You will find Paul talking about these who are falling back into The legalism that they are being enticed to by Judaizers and so on So in chapter 4 verse 8 indeed when you did not know God you serve those who which by nature are not gods But now after you have known God or rather are known by God How is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements to which you desire again to be in bondage? This is another case where somebody is reverting back to something other than God in the place of God you Did not know God and you served those which by nature are not gods Now you've known God and you're falling back into serving these other gods. I am afraid for you He says in verse 11 lest I have labored for you in vain So here is an example of people who have come to know God or are known by God and the idea is God knows them because they're his children, but they haven't gotten to know him and He says I urge you to become like me for I became like you and here.

He says you need to Look to the example that I'm setting for you the the Mindset that I am teaching and typifying for you If you look in chapter 5 And he says stand fast in the Liberty by which Christ has made us free and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage Which is a real possibility? He wouldn't say don't be entangled he would just say Stand in the Liberty with which you've been made free you can't go back to bondage But they can and that's why there's an imperative here. Don't fall back into bondage What is a yoke of bondage? What did Israel leave in Egypt hard bondage the heavy yoke of their taskmasters and The picture here is that

having been liberated having had your exodus out of the slavery of sin don't go back to Egypt a believer can go back to Egypt and You look very much like you did before you left even though you are a believer Indeed I Paul say to you this is 5 to if you become circumcised if you go into this righteousness by works business Christ will profit you nothing now this Starts to get you back into this. Can you lose your salvation idea if Christ profits you nothing? Are you saved? There are some who would say no, but again context I can be an American citizen and my citizenship can profit me nothing Because I've broken the laws of a foreign country, and I'm in jail It doesn't change the fact that I am still an American citizen the fact that it profits me Nothing doesn't mean that I no longer have it.

I Testify again every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law you have become estranged from Christ You who attempt to be justified by law estranged from Christ? You have fallen from grace Now these are harsh severe Words but in order to be estranged from Christ you had to be united with Christ in order to be cut off from grace You had to have been enveloped in grace, right? so this is manifestly talking about what can happen to believers who choose to walk in a different manner who choose to go back to the old gods and If These people who are Being enticed by the lusts of the flesh if you go on down into in the latter part of verse 5 This is how the works of the flesh are evident adultery fornication uncleanness. This is verse 19 Uncleanness lewdness idolatry sorcery hatred contentions jealousies outbursts of wrath selfish ambitions dissensions heresies and so on Which I tell you beforehand verse 21 just as I also told you in time past That those who practice such things will what? Not inherit the kingdom of God those who practice such things. These are practices.

These are Lifestyle choices. These are behaviors Salvation is neither gained by works nor lost by works. You don't gain it by faith and lose it by works What do you lose? People who think you lose your salvation by being this disobedient Think that Inheriting the kingdom of God is a synonym for salvation.

And I think we have studied together long enough to know that that's not the case Your eternal life is one thing your inheritance in the kingdom's Upcoming kingdom of the Son and kingdom of the Father are Separate and distinct from that you can be a son with no inheritance You can be Disinherited and you are still a son Right. So this helps us understand a bit about the Status of these people Notice also in verse 18 of Philippians chapter 3 He says brethren join the following my example note those who so walk as you have us for a pattern For many walk of whom I have told you often now if we're talking about unbelievers having emotion as their God and Glorifying in shame and having destruction as their end if it's unbelievers, how many of them are there? How many unbelievers are there? Where do you have to look to find unbelievers? It's like the little kid said in the movie. They're everywhere.

They're everywhere I mean that you it's ubiquitous that the world is full of unbelievers, right? So why would Paul say many walk? He says, you know There are many I could talk about and it reminds us of back in the first chapter when he said, you know That some are preaching Christ

this way and some are preaching Christ that way, but at least Christ is being preached You know, there are many who are preaching Christ out of false motives He doesn't mean everybody in the world is preaching Christ. It's this is many out of a group So when he says many walk of whom I have told you often He's not Saying look at all of these vast hordes of unbelievers that are all enemies of the cross He's talking about people within the church. I have told you many times that you've got to be careful in the church There are wolves in sheep's clothing in the church.

There are you know in other passages? We have spots on your love feasts and those who deny the Lord who bought them and so on Whose end is destruction and and Glorifying in their shame The dokes are this has the idea that they think they are going to be partaking of the glory of God when in fact They are going to be partaking of judgment type ice coon ice coonia I Was going to give you a Passage or two on ice coon a Second Corinthians 4 2 Paul says we have renounced the hidden things of ice coon a Not walking in craftiness nor handling the Word of God deceitfully This is the shame. This is ice coon a in the church is walking in craftiness acting one way and being another being hypocritical having a hidden motive Engaging in subterfuge Misdirection and so on we're not handling the Word of God deceitfully There are believers who handle the Word of God deceitfully who construe passages on tithing to get you to give your money to them Or the windows of heaven and seed faith and you know send me your prayer request and I'll send you a piece of cloth and some Salad oil and you can anoint it and hold the cloth and we'll all join together and God will answer all your prayers That's handling the Word of God deceitfully these people know better and many of them are in fact believers so Paul says this is ice coon a When believers do this sort of thing? We have renounced the hidden things of shame not walking and craftiness nor handling the Word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth Commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God That's second Corinthians 4 2 There is the ignominy the shameful judgment of it Not Oh some women and children walked by during the crucifixion and and he wasn't fully clothed It goes way beyond that in Revelation 3 18 you remember the This is why you have a manual backup method in the Laodicean Church when they prided themselves on having their all of these wonderful accouterments and Because you say I am rich I've become wealthy I have need of nothing and you not and do not know that you are wretched miserable poor blind and naked I Counsel you to buy from me verse 18 Gold refined in the fire that you may be rich and white garments that you may be clothed That the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed That the ice coon a of what kind of nakedness is this is not literal physical nakedness this is The shame and the judgment that comes from having no robe of righteousness Not having accumulated righteousness by faith, which is what believers are supposed to do what you and I are supposed to do There is a penalty For failing to get with the program there are people who say well You know I'm not really interested in being another Billy Graham or doing a lot of spiritual stuff I'm I'm saved and I'm not doing any of the bad sins I'm just going to coast along in the comfortable

middle. I'm going to be at the top of the bell curve I'm going to be in the average, and I'll just sweep in when the Saints go marching in I'll just want to be in that number, and you know just a face in the crowd, and I'll just be average There is shame there is ice goon a associated with lack of robe of righteousness Jesus says I counsel you you want some counseling Jesus says I counsel you to buy gold refined in the fire To get your robe of righteousness so that you will not be ashamed due to nakedness lack of the garment that you may be clothed and Anoint your eyes with the eye salve that you may see Wouldn't it be a shame to be transported to the heavenly realms of glory, but be so Myopic that you can't really enjoy it.

You can't see very far. There's a huge vista panorama Galactic expanses of the glory of God stretched out in multiple dimensions and an unimaginable grandeur But you can't really see it. You've got like these thick cataracts, and you can just barely bumble your way around from from one Pearly gate to the next and You can catch a glimpse of the the glimmer of the golden streets But you can't really appreciate it because you can't see it and this will literally be true for wayward Believers for immature stunted growth believers, they're going to get to the eternal future We if we are stunted we'll get to the eternal future and not really be able to see it by eye salve Anoint your eyes that you may see This is talking about in the time of the reward in the time of collecting the inheritance if you don't do something about your false Bravado Glorifying in your shame you say that you're rich you say that you become wealthy you say you have need of nothing And you don't know that you're poor and miserable and blind and naked you're glorying in your shame That's this is the same case These are believers to whom Jesus is speaking in Laodicea And he says you'd better do something about this or you're going to show up ashamed Naked and blind what can you think of in the human realm that is? Blind and naked a newborn baby Newborn babies can't focus their eyes.

They have no ability to You know it takes them some time to learn to Process the information that comes in through their eyes the information is all there. They just can't Digest it can't make anything of it. They haven't learned to Merge the images from the two eyes you ever been looking at a really young baby, and they're looking at you You think oh, what a what a seraphic smile.

What a wonderful little face then when I just go Off this way. It's very very disconcerting especially if it's your own child. You're looking at him saying oh Lord, I'm so grateful that my child is normal and about that time when I just go Go back to counting toes, and you know something you can verify but in essence this is a description of And and you know newborn babies often immediately begin to eliminate And that's that this is the description of the latest scenes here They've been strutting around glorying in their wealth and all of their accomplishments, and they're going to show up in eternity like a newborn blind naked and Eliminating Jesus says I counsel you Square this stuff away before I come to get you or you're going to be ice goon a There is a penalty there is a strong negative Such a false impression has been perpetrated in the church that well if you're saved And you know you am I'm saved and I know that I am you're gonna go to glory And you know there's gonna be people that God's gonna especially bless And we'll all applaud and we'll all

say rah rah, but all of us are gonna feel good everything's gonna be fine Not so the Bible repeatedly, and this is one of the passages in Philippians 3 tells us That this is not the case Believers can and will be ashamed believers can and will forfeit all inheritance not even have clothing Not even be able to see have to be led around by the hand by others There are believers who when the Lord Jesus comes back are going to flee at the sight of him they won't recognize and they won't know who he is he's their deliverer and Savior and Redeemer and They'll be Scared out of their wits so it's important when we come back to Philippians chapter 3 when he says whose end is Destruction and this doesn't mean the end of the person Look at the preceding verse many walk many walk perry pateo.

What happens when you're walking? You you go somewhere, right? You might just be making a loop we go walk the dog We walk out a certain distance loop around the duck pond or something and come back, but we have We are achieving something. We're going somewhere with our walk the Metaphor is extended a bit here You're going to walk right into destruction. You're going to walk down the broad way through the wide gate to destruction you're Walking down that road you're perry pateo wing to destruction.

It doesn't mean that they are going to disappear but the destination of that walk is destruction and its destruction of Inheritance its destruction and notice you you can see this in the passage because it says Whose glory is in their shame who set their mind on earthly things? Now think about this If your mind is set on an earthly thing You cherish it you treasure it you invest in it. You're emotionally dependent upon it, and you lose that earthly thing people say you know when she lost her Only child she was devastated. She was just destroyed She never got over it died of a broken heart When you get too invested in an earthly thing and you lose that earthly thing it can be catastrophically Devastating well these people have made a god out of feelings Have invested too much in earthly things all those things are going to be gone I don't mean we're going to have no feelings in the eternal future, but this Construct where feelings are at the center And we're going to have a worship service and our goal is to get that high get that lift That's going away.

There's going to be no more. You know praise and worship with a jumbotron. There's going to be no more And I am serious when I say there will be no more praise and worship with jumbotrons When John looked around in the heavens and saw the the white robe multitude singing and praising God there were no jumbotrons You know why? because people will know the song of salvation and of the lamb by heart this is knowledge that comes from the presence of the holy spirit and knowledge of scripture and It will emanate from an overflowing heart that has been prepared that has spent time Steeping in the word of God in this life these people everything they've invested in is gone And that's why their end the end of that walk is a polio a polio is lost That's why it's translated perdition next to Judas's name Judas the son of perdition perdere in Spanish means to lose to lose He is the son of ultimate loss He lost everything lost his status as a disciple lost his opportunity as an apostle Lost his relationship with the Lord Jesus certainly lost his relationship with all of his fellow believers Lost everything ultimately and very quickly lost his

life by his own hand the son of loss sitting on the brink who would not want to be one of the twelve apostles a confidant and companion of the incarnate Lord Jesus Christ Judas Lost it all for 30 pieces of silver Lost it all a polio.

He is the son of a polio so Our View of a polio is informed by a passage over in Revelation chapter 14 as I mentioned before the break And if you'll turn to Revelation 14 We have some vocabulary here, we want to look at just real quickly to finish out and and Supplement and and support this thought there are these angels Flying through the heavens beginning in verse 6 I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth every nation tongue and tribe and so on Another angel in verse 8 followed saying Babylon is fallen is fallen that great city Because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication the reason Babylon is fallen is that she has By prostituting herself caused all nations to drink The wine of the wrath of her fornication Then a third angel verse 9 and here's where we really pick up a third angel Followed them saying with a loud voice if anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand He himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God You got the wine of the wrath of fornication up above with Babylon Now you've got the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of his indignation When it says poured full strength What does this mean isn't wine wine? Well, actually not in the ancient world. They would generally Dilute wine either half and half or two thirds to one third With water and this is to Keep it from being intoxicating it was a beverage that would keep Especially if they had to travel or they had to store it for a while It's hard to store water with that algae growing in it ask anybody owns a pool You ask anybody that doesn't have a refrigerator and it's trying to keep water around, you know water is the basis of all Life and Life thrives in on and around water and to keep it You've got that little bit of alcohol from the dilute wine would preserve the water and and it would be safe to drink and potable for many many extra days and So dilute wine was a common beverage and People got used to the dilute wine and full-strength wine would be too strong for most people unless they were drinking for the purpose Of intoxication they didn't really want their wine full strength but The angel says These who worship the beast and take the mark will drink full strength Of this wine that's poured into the cup of God's indignation He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Holy Angels and in the presence of the Lamb and The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever and they have no rest Day or night who worship the beast and his image and whoever receives the mark of his name So you think boy, you know that sounds pretty much like eternal conscious torment for somebody doesn't it Sounds like it to me reading it here. Well the question here is Who are these people? They take the mark in The tribulation period and you think well, how big a sin is that? I thought salvation Depended on whether or not you expressed faith in Christ these people seem to be condemned to this torment based on an act based on a decision to Do a thing Tattoo my hand with six six six or pop something on my forehead with a picture of the beast right, I Have decided to do this thing this sort of physical go along to get along I want to be able to buy and sell and engage in commerce and without the mark Nobody can buy and sell so I've got an economic pressure here.

Okay, give me the mark I'm going to do it and because of this you've got this full-strength wine of God's wrath and Torment with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Holy Angels and in the presence of the land the smoke a sense for I mean This does this seem rather startlingly disproportionate Well, if I'd have known it was Torment and smoke day and night and fire and brimstone and angels in the land forever and ever I might have given a second thought to Letting them stamp my hand before I went into the store, right? We have to interpret Less clear passages in the light of more clear passages. There are certain things. We absolutely know to be true and Any other passage of scripture that we come to especially those that are of somewhat questionable interpretation? Have to always be interpreted in the light of clear passages.

This is rule number one of hermeneutics you interpret Unclear passages in the light of clear passages always you don't throw over truth That's in your clear passages trying to make sense out of an unclear passage. What is the truth of salvation? What do you know as an ironclad? Absolute fact about salvation. How are you saved on? What basis is a human being saved? By grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is no other way to be saved than faith in Jesus Christ The judgment of who is saved and who is not saved is based on who believes in Christ And who does it he that hath the Son hath life? He that hath not the Son of God hath not life right That's as clear as it needs to be You have the Son you're saved you have not the Son you're not saved. So If these people have committed a particular action in time they have This is a sin. I think we can safely say taking the mark of the beast would qualify as a sin and Worshiping the beast is certainly worshiping a false.

God. That's a sin That shall have no other gods before me these that make a god of their emotion That's a sin or a god of emotion period it's a sin, right? Not supposed to have any other gods Not supposed to go back to the old gods after you have come to the true God as we saw in Galatians So it's easily classified as a sin So they've committed a sin and on the basis of this it says They will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of angels, etc well It is going to seem like maybe I'm trying to twist this passage to fit my Preconceptions and I've considered that possibility and dismissed it. I don't But it still may seem that way it seemed that way to me initially but I Go back to the hermeneutical principle.

I can't make this work for salvation because salvation is always by grace through faith He that hath the Son hath life he that hath not the Son of God hath not life That's certainly from the point of the cross forward. You can make a case for Old Testament Saints that the Son and not the Son Was in prospect, that's something they will have the fullness of their faith revealed when they get resurrected They had to believe that God was and that he was a rewarder of them that sought him That's not the case for these people. The Son has come.

Everybody knows who the Son is God the Holy Spirit reveals him The issue for these people in the tribulation is do you believe in Christ or not? Everybody has that criteria. These people have

committed a sin and it is a very grievous sin. It is a Severely penalized sin, but it is a sin So let's look at what happens to them and see if we're you know, how in the past we would look and say well You you're not going to see life.

The wrath of God is going to bite in you you're not going to inherit the kingdom that means you're lost and we used to just take that as a as a Synonym for loss of salvation until we began to realize. Hey, there's a big difference in salvation and in loss of inheritance and so those passages and the more we look at them the more they made a lot more sense in terms of inheritance than As loss of salvation, so I asked myself the question am I back to looking at this and saying well Obviously if you're tormented day and night You're in the lake of fire So I I pull up the the passage here in In Revelation chapter 14 And I look at it in Greek And this is specifically 14:10 and what I find here is If he receives the mark and so on he himself shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God Which is poured out full strength How many other places have we had? people or nations drinking of the wine of the wrath of God Have we ever seen this language elsewhere in Scripture well We have this is a rather common expression in the Old Testament You have for example in Psalm 11:6 Upon the wicked God will rain coals fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup Well, who's they who are the wicked in Psalm? 11:6 This if you go back to the preceding context This is a psalm of David in the Lord I put my trust how can you say to my soul flee as a bird to your mountain for look the wicked bend their bow They make ready their arrow on the string that they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart Think about David, where does David live? He's in Israel who can shoot at him secretly? Philistines Israelites these are enemies from within this is people within the The intimate circle they make ready their arrow on the string you think about Absalom you think about? Amnon you think about? Those who wanted to overthrow David and put another king on the throne there in Israel they make ready the arrow on the string that they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart if the Foundations are destroyed. What can the righteous do? The foundations This is what the nation used to be built on This is the the law of Moses and the righteousness that was supposed to undergird the nation But the foundations have been destroyed.

So what can the righteous do we ask ourselves that question now? We look around and the Christianity is largely gone from our culture that used to permeate it. So what can the righteous do? David says the Lord is in his holy temple. God is still in control The Lord is the Lord's throne is in heaven his eyes behold his eyelids test the sons of men The Lord tests the righteous but the wicked and the one who loves violence his soul hates Upon the wicked he will rain coals fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup For the Lord is righteous.

He loves righteousness his countenance beholds the upright now I Wouldn't die for this and you could argue if you like that. Maybe Unbelievers are somehow in view in this generally speaking especially in the writings of David when you're talking about the unbelievers They're on a national level Why do the heathen rage and why do the nation's imagine of anything the kings of the earth have roused up? you know, they're they're blocks of Philistines and Hittites and various kinds of

Amorites Those are the heathen When David is talking about individuals as enemies, he's not Assuming that some Edomite is going to sneak through and come in and shoot an arrow at him Individual enemies are his fellow Israelites so I bring that up because you have fire and brimstone which are mentioned four times in Revelation and three of those four times they're associated with the lake of fire that burns with fire and Brimstone or sulfur brimstone is sulfurous stuff Here fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup What they drink the cup speaks of judgment Judgment for what faith or works works Judgments of works There's only one judgment of works for unbelievers and that's the great white throne God doesn't judge unbelievers according to their works in this life I Invite anybody who can show me a passage of scripture that says God is going to judge the unbelieving wicked in this life You know by pouring out a cup on them or so on nations Opposing Israel and so on, you know, that's Ezekiel and Isaiah. We've studied that but individuals you don't find that Only believers are accountable to God Righteous or blessed the wicked are destroyed book of Job and those dialogues and so on so The Lord is righteous.

He loves righteousness his countenance beholds the upright The contrast here in Psalm 11 is between the wicked and the upright This is in the household. This is in Israel. There are wicked in Israel and there are upright in Israel God Resists the proud God gives grace to the humble God will pour out the cup of wrath a cup of brimstone and fire Here in in Psalm 11, so I'm not going to have time to complete everything that I had hoped to Give you tonight, so I'll have to continue this next time.

But let me Mention that these People who are deceived into taking the mark if you go back a chapter in Revelation to 13 14 the beast Deceives those who dwell on the earth by signs which he is granted to do in the sight of the beast Telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who is wounded by the sword and live this is actually Talking about the false prophet. I didn't scroll up far enough he exercises he This other beast that comes out of the earth has two horns Like a lamb speaks like a dragon Exercises the authority of the first beast gets everybody who dwells in the earth to worship the beast whose deadly wound was healed He performs these signs he deceives everyone He's granted power to give breath to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast should speak and cause as many As would not worship the image of the beast to be killed Now if you're deceived and threatened with death and you take the mark of the beast Okay It's still a sin and God is obviously going to judge it harshly But is there any mitigating circumstance at all would you expect? unbelievers to Not buckle under that kind of pressure. I mean He caused all both small and great rich and poor free and slave to receive a mark on their right hand or their Foreheads that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast or the number of his name So then when you get to 14 You have God pouring out the cup of wrath on these who Succumb and who take that mark? Why would God be so? Judgmental on these who take the mark why wouldn't he just judge everybody in the earth? Who is it that he's particularly put out with for taking the mark Why are they going to be tormented in the presence of the holy angels and the lamb The holy angels are going to gather

around the rim of the lake of fire while these particular individuals are Tormented when the rest of the dead live not until the thousand years are complete Don't we have a timing issue here if these are going to be tormented in the presence of the lamb and in the presence of The holy angels and we haven't even had the Millennial Kingdom yet Are these people already tossed into the lake of fire with fire and brimstone? You start to have trouble pressing unbelievers into the lake of fire into Revelation 14 Yes, it's harsh.

Yes. It's fire and brimstone. Yes, the smoke ascends forever and ever but If you look at this closely, it is harder and harder to make it be Unbelievers in the lake of fire.

There's nobody in the lake of fire except the beast and the false prophet Satan's not even in there till the Millennial Kingdom is over and the Gog Magog Rebellion takes place and Then you have the great white throne judgment as many as aren't found written in the book are cast into the lake of fire Where the beast and the false prophet are it doesn't say the beast the false prophet and all of those who took the mark of the beast so I'm just saying it's something to consider. We have had to revisit our assumptions and our presuppositions before and I'm saying this is worth a second. Look so I'll let you chew on it this week Read it look up your cross references get you a new Treasury and and see what you think But I have some additional information for you From Greek it has to do with an Anarthrus ion We have here a very unique Construction.

It's the only place in the entire Greek New Testament where? Ionias I Own own is Anarthrus and it's weird. It's very weird so I leave you twisting Somewhat in in the wind on that till next time Bottom line though by way of application. How important is it for us to be motivated to? Pursue the positive potentials in this life.

Is it enough to be saved and to be middling? Okay, not a bad person God takes the robe of righteousness Seriously, he takes having the eyes open Having the Potential fulfilled very seriously the Lord Jesus Christ counsels the Laodicean Church You need to be sure that you don't show up ashamed at His coming you need to have that robe and not have nakedness and shame Associated with it. It's not enough to just schlep along. It's not enough to be one of the great number Because great numbers of people are going to be ashamed There will be far more people dwelling outside the New Jerusalem than in it.

The new earth is Never given abound. It's never given a dimension Revelation says there'll be a new heaven and an earth. We're not told how big the new earth is We are given the specific dimensions of the New Jerusalem.

It's finite and it's limited You know why because there's a finite and limited number of people who will dwell therein That's the number we want to be among And to do that, we've got to pay attention. Now. We've got to plan ahead.

We have to take seriously our Opportunity to lay hold of righteousness by faith. It is not enough to just feel good emotion as a God Isn't going to cut it. It is going to result in judgment.

It's going to result in shame So these are Important things for us to take on board and understanding them is not only going to help us Map out the nature of the eternal future so that we're not shocked when we see certain people getting severe judgment And we say hey, wait a minute. Isn't that part of the body of Christ? Isn't that a fellow believer? That's harsh That's severe well We need to know what's coming up and it's also an encouragement and a motivation for us to be as far from that Area of judgment as possible because believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are going to experience severe judgment In times to come There's no getting around it. It is clear clear in Scripture We need to know it and we need to take it on board so that we're not caught unawares When Jesus comes as a thief in the night Let's close here and we'll pick up next time and finish our study of Apollia Father, thank you for the truth of your word.

Thank you that it not only Instructs us and gives us doctrine, but it also rebukes and corrects us. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will Make it clear to us Where we can improve where our shortcomings are where our weaknesses? persist and that through your grace and through your provision we can be strengthened where we are weak and your glory will be reflected in that process and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf will be vindicated and we will be prepared for Service both in this life and in the ages to come we pray all these things in Jesus name. Amen