

Psalms 19-09-19b

Let's continue our study now and we're looking at the nature of our current societal milieu, the effluvia in which we are drifting. I just wanted to work that word one more time today, occurred earlier, it's a good one. But let me remind you real quickly that you've heard these labels for generations and if you go to research this at all or try to find out where did this come from, Gen X and Gen Z and millennials and all this other, it's almost entirely marketing people who are trying to target advertising to vacuum dollars out of people's accounts.

That's what they're after and where is the appeal? So if you notice that more and more people on television commercials are sort of unobtrusively but noticeably flashing tattoos or piercings or things like that. It used to be you'd see a mom in a 1950s skirt picking a baby up out of her crib and now she's wearing a t-shirt and she has a jute necklace and she's got a tat on her arm as she's picking up her child or whatever. That's a signal.

They're marketing, they're catching the eye of some people who can identify with whoever it is they are imagineering into their commercials. But just by way of review and sadly my mom's generation and all the people born before 1944 are not really targeted at all unless it's for geriatric supplies, late night TV, people that can't sleep, they'll be telling you it'll come in a plain brown wrapper and nobody will know. But most of the marketing starts with the baby boomers and this is as I said 1944 to 60 or 64.

It's about a 20-year gap there and so these are the people that are currently as of this year 55 to 75 years old and you figure what are people interested in in their late 50s through their mid-70s. What appeals to them? Where are they income wise and what are their concerns? So baby boomers. There are about 76 million baby boomers currently in the U.S. of A. Following that are those born between 65 and 79.

This is generation X. Why are they called generation X? Well they knew what to call the baby boom because it was a sudden growth of population after all the guys came home from World War II and started building families and there was just this explosion of kids and it was a baby boom and so they were called boomers. Well they didn't know what to call the people that weren't a part of a post-war explosion so they said well we don't know what's going to be the definitional mantra for these people so we'll just call them generation X. They're a variable. They're unknown and it kind of stuck so they're generation X. Born between 65 and 79 so they're currently 40 to 54 years old and there's 82 million.

This is the biggest group currently in the population of the U.S. Then naturally they just started adding letters because if you don't know who X is well who's coming after them? Well it's generation Y also known as millennials because they're the ones that were born between 1980 and 1994 so they remember the turn of the year 2000. You know Y2K and people don't even hardly remember what that means anymore but they're kind of old enough to remember that and of course along with that 9-11 and what was that 2001 9-11 so you have a memory of that. I

had our kids sit down and watch it on television because it was something that would live in history.

They say that for baby boomers the Kennedy assassination everybody knows where they were when that happened. Well generation X between 65 and 79 they typically remember Watergate because it was all over the news in their childhood and then generation Y they remember 9-11. Following that of course is generation Z which is the newest generation.

They're born between 1995 and 2015 so the youngest of them is four years old right now. The oldest of them is 24 and there's about 74 million of them in the U.S. There's a total of about 73 million of the generation Y. There's 82 million of generation X and the baby boom has been far outdone by the generation X because there's only 76 million of us and there's 82 million of them. There's 73 million of the generation Y and there's 74 million of generation Z between 95 and 2015.

Now they tend to break down generation Y just in case you're interested. Those as I said were born between 1980 and 1994 but they break them into the ones that are uh 25 to 29 years old. In other words the one born between 1990 and 94 are almost a separate segment and you ask yourself why is that? Well and so they call them Y.1 and Y.2 and the 25 to 29 year olds are Y.1 and there's 31 million of them but you think about it you're maybe just finished college people are getting married later and later if they get married at all and so you've got that bracket that are in there still in their 20s and that's generation Y.1. Both of my daughters are in that little bracket and then the ones that are older between 29 and 39 their families and SUVs and houses and steady jobs and all of that and so that really demographically and marketing wise that's two groups in generation Y so that's why they break that out.

But um the why are these names important? Each generation label serves as a shorthand to reference about 20 years of attitude motivations and historic events and also what was your childhood like? Baby boomers grew up watching the older ones of us black and white tv newer ones color tv if you're born you know six by 64 color tvs were starting to take over the landscape. Landline telephones no internet no cell phones no pagers unless you were super rich you can see Paul Drake on Perry Mason with a bag phone in his car but he's like rich you know. But what makes each generation different? Well the baby boom generation and I'm elaborating this because where do you fit as you listen to the sound of my voice and in the future remember these descriptors are talking about in this year 2019 what is your sitz in lieben what is your situation in life and that will change people that are currently 25 to 29 someday they're going to be 35 to 39 someday they're going to be 55 to 75 and so the marketing is going to change because this group is moving you know we're all sliding toward eternity down this inescapable pipe but right now in 2019 so wherever you fit as you listen to the sound of my voice think about your particular predilections your background your experiences your frame of reference and even ones before the baby boom generation you know what defined your generation you know you're back you know chiseling things in stone to leave a note for your spouse and you know outdoor plumbing and no I'm kidding but but you you can fill in the

blanks on these I don't have to tell people that old what their childhood was like I wasn't there but for the for the 44 to 64 1944 to 1964 which is a lot of us in the present room currently the biggest consumers of traditional media like television radio magazines and newspapers if you're in a waiting room like I was yesterday Patty and I pick up the magazine that the doctor has on the table people younger than us are staring at their phone why is that because I'm a baby boomer and they're not and I like something tangible I want to see it in print doesn't move around I don't have to scroll you know somebody's not going to text me in the middle of it hopefully it's we're just built that way text radio magazines newspapers yet despite that background 90 percent of us in the boomer generation have a Facebook account why the kids have one the grandkids have one got if you want to keep in touch want to see the pictures did you know so-and-so got engaged did you know so-and-so got married in your friends of friends and so on the only way you're going to find that out to be on Facebook if you're waiting for a paper invitation to come in the mail from young people forget about it ain't happening nice thing is you don't have to send them anything in paperback just post something on Facebook and say congrats you know smiley face and you're done so we older ones primarily use whatever technology we have cell phones or whatever to keep in touch with people younger than us our banking habits boomers prefer to walk into a branch of the bank to do our transactions I want to see the money I want to get a receipt that's been stamped with a thing from the bank if I want a money order or something give me the piece of paper so I can mail it I want tangibility I want to tell her I want to see the stability and the long-term solvency of this bank look the building's made of brick Rogers County Bank has been here ever since I was a kid it'll be here long after I'm gone great place to bank now you know the first ethereal bank of virtual bitcoin is off on the web somewhere people are comfortable with bitcoin I don't know what a bitcoin is I don't want to know I'm utterly uninterested in virtual currency but there's people who have made a fortune in fact I read this is an aside I read a sad story about a guy when bitcoin first came out and you could you could mine bitcoins which means you had to figure out these long algorithms to solve this complex code and if you had a laptop in the late 90s you could sit there and leave your laptop on for days on end and it would solve these little puzzles and they would reward you with a bitcoin well this guy left his laptop running for like five or six years and uh but bitcoin was kind of a an unknown quantity back then nobody knew if it was going to survive for any good well he accumulated a whole bunch of these bitcoins on his laptop but then the battery went out in his laptop and he stuck in the closet got a newer one and did something else well bitcoin took off and now bitcoins are worth big money if you cash them in you can get real money for bitcoin and he said oh wait a minute I man I'm a millionaire I've got like seven million dollars in bitcoin sitting on my laptop well he went to the closet to get his laptop and discovered that he had thrown it out and recently too I mean he just in it and so he he went to the trash collectors and he he actually went to petition to go dig in the junkyard to try to find it's that valuable I mean there's it would be worth hiring a bulldozer scraping around trying to find this hard drive where his bitcoins are and but of course he lost him he you know he's he's a he's a millionaire he's a virtual millionaire because he threw away his lap see he should have been like me I never throw away anything I've got hard I've got hard drives 25 and 30 years old out there in the deep storage anyway we prefer to go into a concrete

environment to do concrete things like banking still prefer to use cash especially for purchases under five bucks did that today go in and buy something pay cash we're kind of the last users of cash we're experiencing the highest growth of student loan debt I know isn't that an eyebrow razor baby boomers are experiencing the highest growth in student loan debt why seems counterintuitive but we have the most wealth and are looking to help our children with their student debt so parents are shoveling in to help the kids so the boomers have shouldered the debt burden for their kids and because we were brought up to believe that you should take care of your kids launch them on a course not planning to leave them an inheritance I'm getting you fixed up you're educated you can make your way but unlike our parents who would often leave us land or wealth or possessions or whatever that we're in such a disposable society and things turn over nothing's worth what it used to be that's why antique stores always have really old stuff because the old stuff is valuable the new stuff is disposable doesn't work anymore I just had to salute and say goodbye to a clock that was made in the 1960s because it's plastic I've got a clock that was made before 1900 that belonged to my grandmother fixable this mantel clock right behind me that you can't see fixable the plastic clock that I grew up telling time on because it runs backwards uh unfixable plastic the plastic has just disintegrated disposable it's it's a metaphor for everything so uh more Americans than ever are outliving their retirement fund they're declining pensions social security's in jeopardy so you know boomers are all concerned with their retirement and with launching their kids and making sure they're not a burden you know get out of the basement go get a job you know whatever so generation x 65 to 79 age 40 to 54 82 million biggest chunk carrying the highest debt load still raising children and trying to plan for retirement uh all also called the latchkey generation in younger days when they you know their both their parents were working and they would just come home and let themselves in the mtv generation uh they'll read some newspapers magazines radio and tv but they're digitally savvy spend seven hours a week on facebook on average that's the average average in that generation is seven hours week on facebook uh so they do research and financial management online but they'll still do transactions in person they believe banking is person-to-person business and demonstrate brand loyalty this is all marketing talk the shaping events for that generation end of the cold war the rise of personal computing and feeling lost between the two huge generations uh which had really defining moments and and sort of an ethos uh so that's generation x they are trying to pay off their student loans trying to raise a family trying to take care of their aging parents in some cases and it puts a high strain on the resources the average gen xer carries a hundred and forty two thousand dollars in debt though most of this is in their mortgage looking to reduce debt build a savings plan for the future but counting house mortgage those folks almost a hundred and fifty thousand dollars in debt when i mention these different factors although they're interesting on their own think of them in terms of our perspective about what pulls on you what distracts you what occupies your thought life what are you going to wake up in the morning spend your day and think about in the evening and go to bed worrying about if you've got 150,000 in debt hanging over your head if you've got tens of thousands of dollars in student debt student loan debt hanging over your head if you're not sure about your job security if you're not sure about your personal relationships you're not sure about the economy not sure about world events not

sure about tomorrow what is going to occupy your mind ask yourself that question then remind yourself of what occupies david's mind in psalm 145 what occupies him every day and he's going to do it forever occupation we used to have this term you know when when bob dean would talk about the his version of maslow's hierarchy of needs if you've ever taken psychology and seen maslow's hierarchy well bob just converted it to spiritual things and so you've got the floor of grace orientation and then mastery the details of life is number two and relaxed mental attitude is number three and then uh capacity for lifelong and happiness is number four and the top is uh occupation with christ where the top floor of maslow is self-actualization if you if you ever want a fun thing to do especially if you've had psychology and they inflicted maslow on you put those two side by side get bob's uh edification complex and maslow's hierarchy of needs and you can see how and where and why bob theme derived the edification complex it is the spiritual antidote to the secular human so if if you're a believer and you reach maturity you're going to be occupied with christ and through him in my view occupied with god jesus is the first one to say john 14 6 i'm the way you come to the father through me come to the father so if i was going to add a floor after you get occupied with christ get occupied with the father the king the creator the one who sent his son the one jesus represented and called his own people back to the father can't say enough good things about god the father he is great and greatly to be praised well then you come to the generation y that's broken into those two parts born between 1980 and 1994 they are currently 25 to 39 years old they're either in the young five years or the the older 10 years of that group they're also called gen y gen me gen we uh echo boomers hadn't heard that one before uh there are 95 million of them in total and evidently the edition i did up above wasn't right because they say 95 million here 95 of them still watch tv but netflix is their favorite tv source so it's they're streaming more than anything else uh cord cutting in favor of streaming services popular choice comfortable with mobile devices but 32 will still use a computer for their purchases typically have multiple social media accounts less brand loyalty than previous generations they like to shop and have a little patience they have little patience for inefficiency they'll they'll berate somebody and give them poor reviews if they're disappointed so they place their trust in brands with superior product history like apple and google they seek digital tools to manage their debt and see their banks as transactional as opposed to relational they don't really care who it is or what it is give me a good deal i'm happy they were shaped by the great recession that's 2000 can you believe it what would you you remember great depression uh well i don't but my parents did our parents remember the great that was definitional for them was the depression and then world war ii you got the depth and then you've got the challenge and then the victory in world war ii that shaped that whole generation this generation is shaped by the great recession meaning 2008 and 9-11 in 2001 the technology explosion of the internet and social media they're entering the workforce with high amounts of student debt this is delaying major purchases like weddings and homes financially unstable prefer access over ownership let me say that again they prefer access over ownership nice place to visit don't want to live there apartment dwelling condo move here move there not putting down roots i'm not establishing an investment i just need access give me access to things i don't need to own it access over ownership can be seen through their preference for on-demand services they want partners

that will help guide them to their big purchases then you have gen z born after 1995 or in 1995 and later age 4 to 24 i generation post-millennials homeland generation roughly a quarter of the population next year it'll be a third the average gen z or received their first mobile phone at age 10 age 10 that's the average you think about the ones now four and five years old i've seen i've seen kids as young as five with their own cell phone grew up playing with their parents mobile phones and tablets they've grown up in a hyper-connected world the smartphone is their preferred method of communication on average they spend three hours a day on their mobile device three hours a day the older ones have seen the struggle of millennials financially and adopt adopted a more fiscally conservative approach they want to avoid debt and appreciate accounts or services that aid in that endeavor debit cards top their priority list followed by mobile banking over 50 of these gen z people have not entered a bank branch in at least three months shaping events for them smartphone social media never knowing a country not at war and seeing the financial struggles of their parents which is generation x the other thing you can say about them is they see the huge student loan debt piled up by the increasingly disinterested in going to a brick and mortar college they will either pursue online degrees or they want to go to a trade school and skip the whole college thing altogether i just want access give me a job where i can earn a check i don't need to get a degree i don't need to invest in that i don't need this huge pile of student debt which is a fair assessment you know that's a huge load to take on and try to pay off they say you know what there's got to be a better i'll go to a trade school i'll go to vo tech i'll learn a skill i'll i'll apprentice and they've almost come full circle back to the way people did it in the 1800s where you would learn a trade maybe in your father's business these people just get it anywhere but why am i belaboring this especially because of the advent of the information age in this generation there is a whole different view of life and life tugs at us it uh changes what technology means it was one thing to have electric lights instead of gas lights or a telephone instead of sending a letter get radio instead of a newspaper these were sort of linear changes that were absorbed over a great deal of time they didn't mind-blowingly change the landscape in a few years radio gradually grew and spread telephones gradually grew and spread you know the technology of the last century was gradual up until the late 1980s with the advent of the personal computer networking and ultimately the internet in the mid-1990s really began to burgeon and change became exponential access to information and to connectivity has exponentially grown and it is have you ever seen um navy seals uh retrieve a guy you've got udt the underwater demolition teams and so on you got udt seals and so they'll get in their scuba gear and this goes back a ways i don't know what they do now they probably do it all digitally with drones but when i was learning about them and watching them at work they they sneak in at night and some guys will go in and lay mines underwater demolition teams they'll do the things that they have to do then they get a rubber boat that comes by and to retrieve a guy they don't slow down and say hey frank you know climb in and you know flop him aboard with his frog man suit and his flippers and the rest of it what do they do they've got kind of like a version of an inner tube on a piece of line and when they see the guy up there they expertly toss this thing he grabs it and goes from zero to 60 in about four seconds because the the he he just starts from static and achieves the speed of the boat and they'll haul him in while they're making their exit but but if

you've ever seen that it's just from a standing start in the water it's kind of like water skiing in a way only there's a flexibility aspect where he gets the stretch suddenly brings him up to speed well this is what technology has done to people young old in the middle like never before daniel 12 four many will run to and fro and dot knowledge access to information to options to each other will increase there's never been a time in history that has taken people from dog paddling in the water to you know 25 knots in such a short space of time regardless of your generation regardless of the defining incidents of your childhood or what you grew up on i just want to give you one other uh viewpoint on this having to do with children and what technology is doing for our youngest group those that are coming up now you've got the the gen z that are as old as four but you've got all the younger ones than that and uh there are those who say that uh using smart devices and apps in the classroom has a positive influence on learning now listen to me carefully because this is an illustration not just content so there is a study that shows that an app called martha speaks increased the vocabulary of five-year-olds they took 13 five-year-olds and they gave them this app and they increased their vocabulary by almost a third they got a 27% jump in their vocabulary by using this app and you say wow give me this app always give it to all of the five-year-olds so that they can all increase their vocabulary and become more literate this is a wonderful thing so you have a fact i got this fact off the internet the fact says martha speaks app good five-year-old get this app no brainer another similar app showed a 17 improvement in the vocabulary of three-year-olds um people also argue that uh apps are better than television because it's more interactive you interact with the interface you tap things and respond and it responds to you and tv you're just sitting there vegging is the argument however so you draw a conclusion with with that one set of facts you say well let's let's get this for everybody got a grandkid gonna get in the app i'm gonna suggest it to my daughter or son but the time children are spending in front of screens is alarming to many it's a problem because the more time they spend on devices the less time they're spending engaging directly with others human to human interaction is essential for a child's growth and development there's also concern that children may be unable to self-regulate when parents use technology as a calming device in other words they are not learning self-control they are being distracted they are not being trained they are being entertained they are not being trained entertain is not the same as train they lack the exploratory unstructured play that is critical to healthy development this affects visual motor and sensorimotor skill development both of which are critical in science and math skills since these devices have emerged only in the last decade or so their long-term effects on childhood development and growth are still not fully realized kind of like vaping isn't vaping wonderful get rid of those nasty old tobacco cigarettes and the tar and nicotine get your hit off of vaping and now they can't get vapor things off the market fast enough because all these virulent little bugs are in there and people are dying in droves from this inhalable substance there is a loss of three-dimensional interaction hand eye coordination the ability to sense and interact with depth there is there are posture problems there are fine motor skill problems you can read the studies teaching children and having them grow up with nothing but these flat screens there are problems with the light and the kind of light that comes out of flat screen devices and what it does to their vision there you know studies say that used for educational purposes technology can improve

child comprehension 266 kindergarten students used an ipad to supplement their classes and they scored better on literacy tests that's great give all the kindergartners an ipad ipad good but it doesn't take into account the secondary effects that technology use can have on a developing brain and so you have to gather more facts so what's the problem with this you remember the the hue and cry about manipulation of social media in the last election because you can give facts that are true but if you don't give all the facts and if people don't have the ability to balance and to weigh and to prioritize one piece of information over another you're being manipulated and you're being manipulated en masse and the connectivity is being leveraged to achieve an agenda rather than to give voters a fair and balanced picture from which they can draw their own conclusions and vote their conscience they're voting what they've been told or what they've been and the algorithms in google and the rest of it you search on a thing and say you know donald trump remarks or hillary clinton email what are the results that you get the the woman that accused judge kavanaugh try to research her depending on the search engine you use even to this day you get wildly different results she was friendly with a number of high up google people so you google her on google and it's largely friendly and positive and and uh what a staunch uh the outspoken whistleblowing uh savior for the people you go to other search engines and she's a madcap strange lady and here's the reason why with photos can't find the photos with the lampshade on her head so to speak on google but you can find them on duck duck go or some of the others that do not sell you as the product google you're the product you think you're on there to buy products you are the product and your search habits are being marketed and sold find one that doesn't market you and you'll get there they don't have a dog in the fight that you just get the results that you get but uh there was a study at the 2017 pediatric academy pediatric academic societies a pas meeting children exposed to more screen time with digital devices may be at higher risk for delays in acquiring speech if you ever talk to little kids and it seems to me this is anecdotal but an increasing number of them when i just go to homes and little kids are trying to talk to me they're they're not very well spoken at an age where i would expect them to be able to answer questions and speak in a way that i can understand this study examined nearly 900 children between the ages of six months and two years between 2011 and 2015 measuring variables including self-reported daily screen time and language abilities researchers found that for every 30 minute increase in handheld screen time there was a 49 increase in risk for expressive speech delay every half hour with a screen 50 likelihood that they're going to have a slowdown in learning to talk properly and acquire vocabulary and diction and sentence structure and stringing thoughts together coherently this suggests that exposure to technology could interfere with the child's ability to develop and use language growing body research is confirming the frequent exposure to online content and interactions may be harming children's attention span ability to form memories and comprehension of that content reading in a traditional format your paper bible requires sustained focused attention with few or no distractions interfering with the main text traditional readers are also forced to call upon their imagination and memory to retain the information online readers by contrast are bombarded with distractions in the form of hyperlinks ads and supplementary information they can search for whatever they don't remember or understand therefore they are not trained to improve

their imagination and recall accordingly children who spend a lot of time in an online environment rather than a traditional one suffer reduced focus and poor content retention exposure to screens forces our eyes to focus in a way that is not found in nature and exposes us to blue light 3d rendered graphics and other unnatural emissions for an adult whose eyes and vision were trained in a natural environment these are not a major cause for concern but for children long-term exposure to these screens may cause permanent vision problems at a minimum serious eye strain headaches and other vision related problems etc this is the world in which we live and depending on and looking to the connectivity whether it's connectivity to people or connectivity to information to the knowledge that is online i have a problem i'll google it i'll find somebody who has faced a similar problem i will connect with an online group for support for ideas what did you do when you had this issue what did you do to what did you turn how did you oh i went and played racquetball like patty and i actually heard that on a christian talk show one time when a guy was saying oh you know being a pastor it's high stress and what did you do and we were both expecting well you know when you go to the psalms he said oh well you know i took up a sport i play racquetball it's a great tension reliever and i thought i could get that on any any secular am station this is supposedly christian resources divine viewpoint eternity perspective objectivity the holy spirit the word of god are you kidding me to relieve stress well i gotta go grab a racket and find somebody i can beat you know i come on well anyway so when you think about psalm 145 when you think about psalm 119 and these other acrostic psalms that we looked at do you notice that god has taken this divine content this eternal perspective and it is organized it is ordered an acrostic is a coherent structure what does your spiritual life do in this world of increasing distraction and deflection and do i really know that what i'm being presented i was talking in the car today about what i learned about the network news 40 years ago being in a theater where things were happening and then seeing the evening news with dan rather and these other guys on a 24-hour delay i was there i was a part of it i saw it i witnessed it i talked to the guys who were there they came back and said here's what went down here's who shot who and why here's the the nature of this event we get the news from the u.s 24 hours later cbs evening news nbc uh abc and i could not believe the little scraps of information that the pool reporters down on the corniche who weren't there didn't go out and report didn't gather all the facts they had some facts but then they wove it together into a narrative that fit an agenda or fit a perspective or confirmed their confirmation bias and was wildly different than the truth i saw the truth i know the truth i was a part of the truth that ain't the truth so i've never had any faith in network since then and i'll tell you even more so you have to be careful when you see stuff trending when you see stuff online oh i'm going to get the real scoop i'm going to go to this website or that blog forget about it you want to know where you get the structure to organize to parse to maintain perspective to live your life in truth with a future with stability with peace with opportunity with investment of your time read psalm 145 read psalm 119 remember the beginning matthew pointed this out on the break you remember the beginning of psalm 119 i've seen people whose lives meant something that's what i want that's what we want this technology is not going away there's going to be more people running to and fro and knowledge and access to it is going to increase even more it's going to get more fragmented the new generation that takes over the world

you're going to lose uh brick and mortar everything it's going to be virtual it's going to be on your phone it's going to be a chip in your hand in your head it's going to be more and more virtual it's going to be more and more insubstantial it's going to be more and more in the realm of of social connectivity information connectivity in the new forms that are coming out your internet as you know it today 10 years from now you won't even recognize it five years from now it's going to be substantially different security passwords anything you want to name all of this is evolving faster than you can track it and modes of thought and philosophy of life is changing in ways you and i cannot understand because we're not in that generation you cannot talk logic with gen y and gen z you can't it doesn't have any traction it's not about logic it's not about assembling facts on two sides of the scale and whichever way it tips that's what you do that's the truth my truth is is what i perceive in the moment i googled it i got an answer that's good enough for now if it changes tomorrow so be it i don't really care because i've got six other irons in the fire and it's it's temporary it's ephemeral it is human life and subjectivity on steroids we have to represent to those behind us in time and different from us in perspective timeless truth you need to be a light we need to be a light shining in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation they're not trying to be crooked and perverse they're being pulled in crooked and perverse directions there's manipulation going on at levels you can't even imagine and i'm not a you know me i'm not a conspiracy theorist but i am telling you you cannot trust what you read you can't trust what you see on any channel from any source except the one between the index and the maps that says holy bible on the outside that's reality you can trust everything else you better take with a grain of salt fret not thyself because of evil men pursue righteousness and peace the kind of righteousness without which no one is going to see the lord i want to see the lord i want to meet and be presented before the king by the lord jesus christ who is not ashamed to call my name before his father everything else will take care of itself but we have got to rise above the milieu and the cacophony that is running to and fro and this massive exponential increase in knowledge and voices and viewpoints and perspectives why do you think there's so many rootless and uncommitted young people don't want to commit to a church don't want to commit to a job don't want to commit to a relationship don't want to commit to a to a course in life i'm going to do this for now and i say you're in the prime of your life you know you ought to be laying a foundation for something where you've got some upper well it's good for now it's just like what i'm looking at on my screen is good for now do something else tomorrow no plan no purpose no direction in in the long term it's a plan for today it's it's expedient sufficient under the day is my plan and my knowledge my information and if it changes so be it and and they're raised that way god calls us to eternity we are headed for eternity all of this ephemeral virtual stuff is going to disappear and heaven help society when gps fails or the internet goes offline you're going to have mole-like people blinking in the sun saying where are my friends where is my job where is my money what do i do i can't find my way i have no i have no skills in the real world my hand eye coordination is terrible i can't do for myself i can't light a fire i can't find food you want to talk about post-apocalyptic nuclear holocaust with or without the nuke without technology people who have never lived a life without it who have never camped have never made something for themselves don't know how to function or navigate without my friends on my phone just look at somebody whose phone is

broken in the younger generation and they're it's just it's it's almost worse than losing a pet probably is in many ways anyway think about it we represent if you're going to be a light shining in this generation you represent the light of heaven the light of eternity the light of god that's what this psalm is about we can talk technology or we can talk god the king and his greatness and his mighty acts and his power when the chips are down when there's this circumstance that circumstance the other circumstance health-wise financially socially whatever facet where is the power where is the stability where is the future where is the objective perspective do you want to build your house on sand and the sand is not just the sand of the beach this is sand in the wind versus building on the rock that's what you and i represent that's what we stand for and it is rapidly deteriorating away look at percentages of church attendance look at the percentages of people who have got a solid faith foundation in the younger generations there are some but you can't swing a cat and hit one you've got to search and look they are fewer and further between in these generations of 95 million and 75 million look for young people who have got a life of faith as used to be common in the greatest generation as used to be routine to encounter in the boomer generation fewer and fewer between one of the reasons christian young people who do have a life of faith are having a harder and harder time they're older and older before they get married they're older and older before they enter into the life that we used to take for granted is because they're scattered further and further apart god's got to do greater and greater interventions to even bring them together it is the sign of the times jesus said if you can look at the sky and tell what the weather's going to do you ought to observe the signs of the times these are our times this is the answer when you think about the madness of it all read psalm 145 this will never change and if you want power and stability this is where it is and it will never change you can build on this rock and it is secure la olam unto the ages that's what david left us 3 000 years ago and it still pertains and if this is the one gift that we can leave to the generations that are coming now and the generations coming in the future i'm not nearly so concerned i was thinking about you know how great it is to have some biographical details about some of my forebears and my ancestors but i would much rather they know that i believed in god and trusted in him than minor details of my career or where i was when and what i did if they remember me as committed to god and never wavering never faltering being sustained by his grace confident of my destination that's what i remember about my dad about my grandparents more than anything else i know some of their biography but what stands out in my mind is what stands out about david here and that is i know whom i have believed that's our call that's our opportunity whatever else happens however many people run to and fro however much knowledge increases that's the knowledge that counts let's close here in a word of prayer we'll resume our study of psalm 145 next time father thank you for the opportunity we have you have positioned us carefully and with forethought in the times in which we live the places in which we live the families you have ordered us in families you have given us the opportunity as never before to shine as lights to be different and to make a difference as men increasingly become lovers of self lovers of money become entranced with the distractions of the world we have the opportunity to witness with our lives and with our faithfulness and to see your faithfulness reflected in our circumstances we pray that as we meditate on these things that god the holy spirit will help us to see clearly

where our personal and individual opportunities lie that we will be faithful to our calling that we can be representatives of the lord jesus christ on this earth until he comes to retrieve us and take us to himself and if we are qualified to present us before your throne we pray these things in jesus name amen