

23b REV

We want to take a look now, as we resume our study in Revelation 18, at the details of the fall of Babylon the Great. We have established, I think, to a reasonable degree of certainty, that Babylon the Great represents world religion in all of its manifestations, all the way down through history. And this is the symbolic judgment of that godless, self-centered religion.

It is pictured here as a city. The angel says, fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great. The destruction seems to come from an earthquake, or something of a seismic, catastrophic, and universal nature.

If religion, man-made religion, is pictured as this city, what does an earthquake do to a city? It destroys it by wrecking the foundation, that on which it sits and on which it is built. So, the underpinnings, the belief system, the motivation, if you will, for this form of religion is going to come apart. It's going to be shaken at the foundations, and it is going to lose its hold on the remaining population of the earth.

Now, why would this be? Let's take your pick. I'm not saying that it's Roman Catholicism. I'm not saying it's Islam.

Let's just say it is whatever religion it is. But, if it were something like Islam, and you have pronouncements and prophecies in the Koran, and as the progress of this seven year period unfolds, and history manifestly refutes the prophetic parts of the Koran, if the Mahdi doesn't end up being the Mahdi, the great sort of Messiah of the Shia faction of Islam, if it is demonstrated that it's a hoax, what is going to happen worldwide? If it does not produce the desired effect, why do people embrace a religion, any religion? Why do people embrace anything? Because it provides some level of satisfaction. A lot of mafiosi are practicing Catholics.

Why? Absolution. You don't have to worry about guilt. I go do all of these illicit things, but then I go down and talk to good old Father so-and-so, and get it all off my conscience, and I can go right back and do the same thing next week.

Chip some money into the coffers, light a few candles, say a few Hail Marys, and I'm good to go. Absolution. People who are uncomfortable with what they do, find an out.

Find a way of diverting their guilt. Or it becomes a form of penance. It's like wearing a hair shirt.

Well, you know, this is onerous and no fun, so I'll go do that, and then I'll be good. God will balance the scales. Do some bad, do some good, it will all even out.

I'll be in the middle of the pack, and God won't single me out for judgment. People historically have engaged in false religion because they believe it gives them something.

Bird babies, fornicate with the temple priestess, or whatever it may be in these ancient Canaanite cults, and prosperity will ensue.

I will have good crops, I will have a large family, I will succeed in business, I will do these things because it promises me something. That's why people do it. How do you shake the foundations of a system like that when people participate and go along and chip in and donate, and then it doesn't happen? It doesn't fulfill the promise.

You have a lot of lapsed Catholics. You have a lot of Christians who leave their Christian faith. Why? They say, well, it doesn't work, or it doesn't work for me, or I just can't seem to get through to God.

It's not working for me. I don't get the satisfaction from it that I'm looking for, so I'm throwing it over. As though the fundamental difference between Christianity and religion is Christianity is not here to satisfy us.

The Lord Jesus Christ came and purchased our redemption so that we could be satisfactory to God. It's God's satisfaction that is the issue. And it is only the human heart that recognizes that God is the one who needs to be pleased.

God does not exist to please me. I exist to be pleasing to God through Christ. And there is a fundamental threshold of humility there that the world and the universe and life is not about me and how I feel and what I want to get out of life.

Life is about my love for God, my recognition of His grace, His work on my behalf through the Lord Jesus Christ, and my motivation to be what He wants me to be and do what He wants me to do. It's not about me. It's about God.

That's the only way you can make any sense of the lives of people in the Bible like Job where God allows everything Job loves and holds dear and possesses to be taken away. He's an immensely wealthy man and all of his wealth vanishes virtually overnight. He is a loving father who dotes on his family and seven sons and three daughters are wiped out all in the same day.

They are all killed. And the one person that he might have been able to live without, his wife, survives to pester him and tell him he ought to curse God and die. But that, of course, is a blessing in disguise because she is going to have seven more sons and three more daughters.

She gets to go through childbirth ten more times and each time she's probably thinking, you know, I should have kept my mouth shut. But, look at what Job says, though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. You can't say that if you're looking for your own self-interest out of relationship with God.

I want God to be the genie of the lamp. I want God to be my big Excedrin pill. I want Him

to be the big Band-Aid.

I want Him to fix my problems and make me happy. I'm going to give Him a chance here. I'm going to go along for a few weeks or a few months and if He doesn't fix my problems and make me happy, well, heck with that, I'll go try something else because it's all about me.

Well, this is the false promise of religion all down through history. And, of course, what are the successful religions? They are the religions that cater to the me's that are in power. If me wants free illicit sex, then develop temple prostitution.

If me doesn't want to have to support female children because they aren't a part of your view of patriarchal society and they can't inherit the business and they can't work in the fields and they're just useless baggage, why then, religion is going to develop a system of discard on the dung heap or slavery for girls or selling them or sacrificing them in some other fashion. The religions of the world are this harlot. Now, people make great piles of money off of false religion.

Always have and will till the harlot is destroyed. There's big money in false religion. Just look at your TV.

How do those people buy all that TV time? You think any of us could go in there and buy one hour of TV time? These people are on TV ad nauseam, ad infinitum, year after year. I've watched them grow old and grey. Robert Tilton is still on TV.

The man is a convicted fraud artist. What did he do? Left Texas, went to Florida, right back on the air, spilling the same old spiel. He's grey-headed as he can be, but he's still on.

Why? He gives people what they want. Does Robert Tilton preach sin, redemption, reconciliation, propitiation? Does he preach self-sacrifice only in the sense that the sacrifice should go to him? He has stepped conveniently in front of God and what you give to God, why you give to him. And that's just like giving to God.

And I'm picking on him a little bit because he knows better. But there is an infinitude, there's a constellation, there's a cornucopia, a vast collection of people doing the very same thing. So now look at verse 9. The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her.

Notice the kings of the earth. This is the sweep of history. This is not just the last few kings.

There's only one big king at the end, right? The ten kings that had no kingdom gave their power to the beast. So what kings can these possibly be? These are the kings of the earth. This is a historic view.

The kings of the earth are going to be sorry that they threw their lot in with this woman representing false religion when they see the smoke of her burning. Standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, alas, alas, that great city, Babylon. Now the imagery has shifted from the woman sitting on top of human government, the beast with the seven heads, to a city.

Babylon represents a city. Of course, Babylon historically is a city. What does the city represent? A city is something that is founded.

It is enduring. It affords safety and security. In the ancient world, it was a symbol of prosperity.

If you were poor, you lived out in the sticks. If you were rich, you lived in the city. Generally.

Unless you're a big plantation owner running all your serfs. But the riches are concentrated in the city. The power is concentrated in the city.

You have this in the ancient world. You have it in the feudal system where it's behind the castle walls. It's the little mini city there.

That's where the power is. That's where the wealth is. That's where all of the goods go and are stored and are meted out.

That's where justice takes place. The judges sit in the gates of the city and make decisions that affect whether you keep your land or not. And so forth.

That great city Babylon, that mighty city, for in one hour, your judgment has come. God is going to see to it that the pins are pulled out from under this last great manifestation of false religion. This is going to ultimately be the undoing of the beast himself because it is this unholy alliance that has made the kingdom of the Antichrist go.

And it's all going to start coming unglued. This partnership, this concentration of power in one place, this religion is going to be discredited. And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her for no one buys their merchandise anymore.

Now, there are a lot of different things that pass for religion. We think, well, this is formal worship. This is belief in some invisible deity or some invisible power.

But Scripture talks about people making a god out of their emotions. The Scripture talks about people who make their belly their god, their desires. How many industries are there today that cater directly to people's desires? That try to hook into what you want.

You want to be thin. Here's a whole segment of the market that will make you thin or make you look thin. Here are clothes that will make you look thin.

Here's makeup that will make you look younger. Here's hair dye and collagens and oil of Olay and all these different things that hook into a desire. People have a desire to look younger than they are, to look slimmer than they are, to look more muscular than they are, to look better than they are.

And there are billions of dollars spent every year in the pursuit of physical beauty. Look around at the ubiquitous cosmetic surgery market today. How many TV shows are there now that show that liposuction is just a hard thing to watch, isn't it? I have seen mechanics working on cars that were much more gentle than those people.

And you wonder why these people wake up all bruised and swollen. Well, look at what they did while you were asleep, gracious sakes. I mean, have a care.

But it's like they're just intentionally... Well, anyway, that's a little off the subject. But look at the proliferation of cosmetic surgery, not just for women, but for men. I saw a news report about men who are in the age range of 40 to 60 or 65 who are going in for liposuction and for having wrinkles taken out.

And of course, everybody gets there. I've got a permanent crease between my eyes from trying to focus and concentrate. And I should go get Botox in that.

I should get the botulism toxin squirted into my forehead so that it doesn't crease. Men by the thousands are doing this. Why? It appeals.

It hooks in. There is a culture, there is a religion of self and self-promotion and self-improvement. There is a religion of money.

Watch Susie Orman. Anytime your PBS station is clamoring for funds. And she'll get on there and tell you about the religion of money and how you order your life around money and the accumulation of wealth and the magic of compounding.

And it is a religious faith with her. On and on and on. Don't think that this is just Buddhism or just Islam or just Catholicism.

Look at what the merchants of the earth are selling. That's the religion. People who are godless have made a religion out of something else and it's largely the religion of self.

It caters to self. It hooks into your wallet and you start looking at what people spend and there you go. The merchants of the earth, when this goes away, will weep and mourn over her.

By the way, 26-pound, 66-pound hailstones falling. Destruction of a third of the sea. The life that's in the sea.

Scorching of the land. Destruction of people. Water turning to blood.

How many videos are people going to be watching then? How much internet pornography is going to be circulating then? How many people are going to be flocking to the theaters and wondering who's going to win the next Oscar then? How many people are going to be going down looking for hypoallergenic makeup when the earth is being devastated by these catastrophic plagues? Look at Katrina. Look at Rita, the hurricanes we've had in this past year. How many people down there in the Gulf Coast of Mississippi are walking around looking for, oh, where's the video store and where's the makeup and where's my favorite brand of pop? They've got no place to live.

They've got no utilities. There's disease and stuff rife down there and people are just trying to clear out the trash. They don't have time to worry about luxuries and there's nothing like, say, the depression to get people's minds off of themselves and on the essentials of life like how can I get food? How can I stay warm? How can I get the basic necessities of life? And it's a whole different ethos.

The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her for no one buys their merchandise anymore. The major symptom of the fall of the harlot is economic. That's first and foremost.

So if you want to figure out what the fall of the harlot represents, look at where the money's going today. That's what's going to stop. Merchandise of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen and purples, silk and scarlet.

What are those? Human adornment materials. Every single one of them. Gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen and purples, silk and scarlet.

That's how I adorn and decorate myself. Every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron and marble. What is that? Here are my possessions.

Here's my Lexus or my Cadillac. Here's my \$500,000 home. Here's my boat.

Here's my whatever it is. Here's my \$95,000 hybrid car. Objects of ivory.

Here's my collection of paintings. Here's my sculpture. Here are all of my gadgets and gizmos.

Here's my 54-inch plasma TV. Every kind of object. It starts out with personal adornment and it moves to possessions.

Cinnamon, incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour and wheat. Now we move into fragrances and foodstuffs, consumables, cattle, sheep, horses and chariots. This is your holdings, your agricultural businesses and so on.

Bodies and souls of men. This is power. These are your executives and those who hold

sway over many big groups of people.

These are your priests and your religious leaders who have a following, who sell stuff and have people who will follow them wherever they go. The fruit, look at verse 14 now, the fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you. The fruit that your soul longed for.

What do you get up in the morning looking for in a day? If it's not looking at the grace of God, looking at the opportunities God has given. We don't have to be so heavenly minded that we're no earthly good, but we do have to keep a perspective on our life that the things that we do, we can do lots of mundane, earthly, ordinary things. We can do our jobs, live in our homes, go to school.

All the things that we normally do, but we always have one eye on the heavenly perspective, the eternal future. Can I do this in faith? Can I do this in a way that's honoring to God? Do I remember who I am and why I'm here? If not, the fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you. Remember the chiasm I mentioned in the first session tonight? This is the very end of history.

How did history go awry in the first place? Somebody was standing in the garden looking at a fruit that their soul longed for. Genesis 3 tells us that Eve saw the fruit that it was desirable to make one wise. That's how everything got on the wrong road.

The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you. Now remember, all of this is describing the woman. It's describing this false system of faith, this false system of confidence.

It's almost wrong to describe it as false religion because what is it you put your faith in? What is it that you are motivated by? What guides your life? If it's not God and His Word, then it is some false quote-unquote religion. It can be whatever you want to call it. That's what this harlot represents.

It's what your soul longs for. It's the things that you try to accumulate and accrue. You find them no more at all.

Now, the merchants of these things, whether they are authors of books, purveyors of tapes, operators of Internet websites, religious charlatans, makers of products, vanity products, whatever it is, these merchants who became rich by her will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, saying, alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold. Notice, you don't clothe a city with purple and scarlet, do you? This city, this is the establishment of self-satisfying religion. In one hour, such great riches came to nothing.

Every shipmaster, all who traveled by ship, sailors and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance, cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, what is like this great city? These shipmasters who traveled by ship, sailors, those who trade on

the sea, what does the sea always represent in Scripture? Always, always, without exception. When you see the sea, what do you think of? Chaotic forces of darkness. The wicked are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

There is no peace, saith my God, for the wicked. It's the dwelling place of Leviathan. It's the dwelling place of Behemoth.

God establishes his throne upon the sea. The story of Jonah is all about Israel. And going in the wrong direction and ending up in the sea.

Ending up out amongst the nations, nigh unto death. And miraculously spit back up onto the land at a subsequent time. Jonah is Israel.

And you can't get more prophetic than that book in the sudden reappearance from a seeming death of Jonah. They cry out when they see the smoke of her burning, saying, What is like this great city? They throw dust on their heads and cry out, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth. It is characterized by evil.

It depends on evil. The shipping lanes for all of this traffic and all of these goods go across the sea. It doesn't mention any caravans.

It doesn't mention any camels. It all goes across the sea. Why? Because evil is inherent in the system.

For people to gain what the merchants have to offer, for the merchants to sell to the people, it travels across the sea. It is inherently evil. It is inherently wicked.

It is a part of the diabolical cosmic system. In one hour she is made desolate. And it says this over and over again.

In one hour she is made desolate. The end of this is going to be unexpected and I would submit that at the time this takes place, there is going to be a centralized headquarters. This idea of a city probably goes beyond the symbolic, meaning that it's established and of duration and providing protection and a place of prosperity and all the other things I mentioned.

And there seems to be a center. Could be like Rome for Catholicism. It could be like Mecca for Islam.

But there is a place where this power is consolidated and I would suspect that this is also where the technology is consolidated. Remember that the Antichrist with the mark of the beast and all the rest of it is going to control all commerce, all buying and selling. If you don't have the mark, you cannot buy and sell.

And this is all of a piece. It's all the same tapestry. So, how could you instantaneously in

one hour wreck commerce and trade? How about 15 years from now bring down the Internet? Cashless society.

Cash is dangerous. Checks are forgeable. Credit cards are too difficult.

We'll put a chip in everybody or some other personal form of identification that can't be counterfeited, can't be forged. You can't cut off my hand and go stick it in the ATM and get my money. I have to be alive.

It could be a combination of biometrics, thumbprint, retinal scan, voice print, whatever it may be. All of the technology already exists. And look at the fraud that goes on now.

Identity theft, credit card fraud, check fraud. And so, what will they do? They'll get a grip on it. They'll channel it.

It'll all be online. It'll be quote unquote foolproof. And it'll be great.

Everybody says, hey, this system can't be perverted, can't be cheated, can't be swindled. People can't embezzle. Businesses, individuals, it's all in the central system.

Isn't this great? And people will put their faith in this system. This is going to be the channel for the last great religion. Will it have other religious overtones? I don't know.

Will it be a communication channel for whatever the doctrine is of that last great religion? Likely. But when that system comes down, no doubt due to a lot of these other devastations, now nobody can function. There's not a manual backup.

There will be barter on a local level like there has always been. But movement of groceries from central distribution points, you think about what would happen if central Dallas got nuked. And somehow we out here in the periphery survived.

Look at the devastation after the hurricane where traffic on major highways was stopped entirely. Looting, grocery stores, other stores are looted, burned, stuff is hauled off. And within a matter of hours, the city is paralyzed.

There's no outside communication. There's no inbound supplies. Water gets corrupted or polluted.

What are you going to do? You can't turn on the tap and get water. You can't turn anything on and get electricity. You can't go to the store without risking your life to look for something you can even loot.

Everything comes to a standstill. Well, that's what it's going to be like. The entire system is going to come crashing down.

And all of the merchants are stuck. Even their wealth does them no good. Where are you

going to spend your credits in the big machine? In one hour she is made desolate.

Verse 20. Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets. Once again, this encourages us to take the long-term view.

How many apostles and prophets are around in the tribulation? Why would the apostles and prophets be rejoicing? Last I looked, all of the prophets and all the apostles are dead, dead, dead. All of them. You might have heard James and John back.

Rejoice, you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her. This is a symbolic judgment. It speaks of all of human history.

Verse 21. A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down. Remember the avenues of commerce, all the sailors and the ships are pictured as coming across this sea.

And what happens to the sea? This giant millstone is thrown into it, and thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down and shall not be found anymore. It depended on the sea for commerce, but now it's like a millstone and the sea can't hold up the millstone and it sinks out of sight. We know about millstones, Jesus said.

Mess with one of these little ones, it would be better if the upper millstone were put around your neck and you were cast into the sea. Why? Millstones don't float. Millstones cast into the sea disappear and the sea that Babylon depended on for all of its commerce and trade, this liaison with evil winds up being its undoing and it disappears beneath it.

The great city Babylon shall be thrown down and shall not be found anymore. There will never again be false religion. Just as idolatry was purged out of Israel after the Babylonian captivity, never reared its ugly head again, false religion will not rear its ugly head again.

You go all through the millennial kingdom and there's going to be a Gog Magog rebellion, but it's not going to be false religion. It's false religion that brings it about. False religion will never show up again.

It's going to be the direct choice to follow Satan when he comes up out of the bottomless pit. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, maybe that should be flautists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. What is this? Entertainers.

Music calms the savage breast. David played the harp for Saul. People looked to it for comfort, for security, for enjoyment, for entertainment.

One of the last things you do when you crawl up out of the muck and get civilized and

start having your needs met and start building some wealth, when you run out of other things to worry about, then you get your stereo cranked up. When you're out of food and out of work, you don't say, well, let me crank up some tunes. Music means that you're up at the place of comfort and you're looking for entertainment.

And none of that's going to be heard anymore. Of course, false religion has always used music as a tool for hypnosis purposes, for pseudo-spiritual catharsis, all kinds of reasons you have music that carries you away on a wave of something. Music is great in its place, but it has been abused and misused by false religion.

It won't be heard anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. Not even the smallest amount of economic benefit is to be had.

You can't even grind grain and sell it for a profit anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of the bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth.

By your sorcery, all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints and of all who were slain on the earth." Why is somebody wrongly slain? Go back to the first murder. Why was Abel murdered by Cain? False religion.

Salad religion. I will give God a salad, and He will be pleased. Totally contrary to the pattern God had set up in the garden, slaying the animal, giving the skins to Adam and Eve.

Abel understood the proper sacrifice, but Cain would have to go to Abel and do some bartering, some trading to get an animal. Didn't want to go to his brother, younger brother. Figured he had a better plan.

I'll make my own religion. I'll change the rules. I'll please God with the works of my hand.

I will eliminate the blood sacrifice aspect. False religion. That's what motivated the first murder.

In her was found the blood of prophets and holy ones, sanctified ones, saints, all who were slain on the earth. This is the legacy. This is the heritage.

This is the characteristic of false religion. It always succeeds on the backs of others. Look at the Spanish Catholics who came over a couple of centuries ago and looted South America, looted Mexico, looted California, all in the name of God.

And it was wholesale slaughter, wholesale looting. Had almost nothing to do with God. I'm sure there were a few priests who had a genuine desire to try to convert people and bring them to Christ, but those were not the people loading the gold onto ships and

enslaving the people, slaughtering the people right and left.

In her is found the blood of prophets and saints. Now, here's a point of interpretation and application. To the extent that we live our lives in a self-serving, self-seeking manner, we are guilty of the blood of the prophets and the blood of the saints.

You say, well, how can living a selfish life make me blood guilty? Love, as you know, is what? Sacrificial toward self, beneficial toward others. Pursuit of the religion of self is sacrificial toward others to be beneficial toward self. And to the extent that you sacrifice others, you know, Jesus said, you commit murder in your hearts, but you commit adultery in your hearts.

You have blood on your hands when you hate. That hate in the Bible is not an emotion. Hate is a policy.

Hate is a policy of disregard for the welfare of others. We're exhorted over and over again, consider others as better than yourself. Look out for one another.

How many one another's are there in the New Testament? There's hundreds. Love one another. Pray for one another.

Forgive one another. Look out for one another. Over and over and over.

The antithesis of that is looking out for number one. And in God's view, you become guilty of the blood of the saints. You have caused one of these little ones to stumble, as Jesus puts it.

And he says you better remember that their angels are always beholding the face of the Father. There is direct communication of how God's little ones, God's people of faith, are treated. And God keeps account.

That's going to be the basis of judgment, by the way, at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. How did you treat those who needed help? Those who were sick, imprisoned, naked, and so on? That'll be the basis of the sheep and goats judgment. So, by your sorcery, all the nations were deceived.

Nobody thinks they're doing wrong when they get caught up in this. It's a deception. It seems right.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but the ends are ever the ways of death. So, what is our task? What should we try to do? Tomorrow's Saturday. The day after that's Sunday.

We start another work week on Monday. We can look at the way we live our life. How are we going to conduct ourselves tomorrow? How are we going to conduct ourselves on Sunday? How are we going to conduct ourselves on Monday? Are we living to please

ourselves? Are we conducting the false religion of the harlot? Are we trying to get circumstances to conform to our desires? Or are we living in the light of God's Word and seeking to reflect His glory and please Him? It's a really simple analysis to make.

Paul says, you need to examine yourself and see if you're in the faith. James says, look into the perfect law of liberty and you'll see your reflection. And once you've looked, don't forget it.

When you walk away, remember what the Word of God revealed and do something about it. That's our task. These are future things.

We're not going to be here and we say, you know, it's really sort of nice to know information. It's put in the Word of God and presented to us so that we will observe it, interpret it, and apply it. God is paying close attention to each and every one of us.

He has provided everything we need. There is no reason for any of us not to be an overcomer, not to be a good and faithful servant that receives the well done when Jesus returns. We have God the Holy Spirit.

We have 66 books of the Word of God and plenty of light shed on it. All we have to do is choose. All we have to do is decide.

All we have to do is commit our way unto the Lord and let Him bring it to pass. It is a doable thing because it's not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord. We've already got the Spirit.

We're there. It's just a matter of getting it done. We do not want in any way, shape, or form to live in this city that is going to be destroyed, never to rise again.

Well, on that happy note, we've finished chapter 18 and next week in chapter 19, we are going to see the great celebration in heaven because the last remnants and the last vestiges of false religion have been obliterated. There's going to be a lot to talk about in chapter 19 next week, but let's close here in a word of prayer. Father, thank you for the clear and graphic way you have illustrated for us your desire for our lives, your attitude toward that which does not conform to your word.

We pray that God the Holy Spirit will impress these truths in our hearts, help us to live in a way that's pleasing in your sight and glorifying to our Savior Jesus Christ. We ask it in his name. Amen.