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## Prologue

The past, present and the future are linked together in everything that happens. The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is no exception. Ideas concerning these should and must be founded on the Word of God. It is my belief that His will is preeminent over all things. Therefore, it is paramount that we understand *His* motivation as history unfolds before our very eyes. His lovingkindness is a wonder given the wickedness and perverse evil of this present age. The “world” is becoming more brazenly evil in its intent and actions.

The Church too is changing, *His Church*. Saints are given to more concerted effective prayer based on their relationship with Him and how they love each other. No surprise as that is the intent of the Church. We are not problem solvers primarily but given to each other in love and mercy.

Listen to the Holy Spirit within you and you will be changed and able to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Nothing can stand in the way of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Nothing. We need only to submit to His will.

Enjoy and drink in the presence of our Lord as you read through these sermons and be comforted.

Peter J Scott

# The Pages of Heaven are Turning

Peter J. Scott . transcribed 2022

**T**he Lord would say this, “*A mother might desert her child. But I will never forsake you. The Lord draws close to the brokenhearted and near to the crushed in spirit.*” So if that’s you today, just come to the Lord and embrace Him because He is waiting for you.

## *Introduction*

As we were singing that song of David from the book of Psalms, “*Better is ONE day*” . . . Would you guys give up a thousand days for but one day? Well, you don’t have to in the New Testament. That One Day is poured out for you **every** day. Isn’t that good?! We sing that song but the real truth is we have *Every* day with Him. Wow. He has come for our benefit to express His lovingkindness on the earth, as He has prophesied over us this morning. He is coming like the Spring rain. He’s coming and we are to give thanks to Him, our Lord, and praise His name. “*Hosanna to the King of kings.*” Wow. How could we not? As the earth is going crazy (2022), like that song, “*Do you feel the darkness is getting darker . . .*” It is crazy what is going on but it **cannot do anything to the Kingdom of God**. That reality is independent of any earthly happenings. It is independent from the politicians. It is independent from what we think might be happening.

What the Lord does in the Kingdom of God is what *He* wants to do. No one else, nothing short of it. So I would like to speak this morning about John chapter fourteen where Jesus says, “*I am the way of the path. I am the truth.*” And that truth is life. He is all in all, the way, the truth and the life. Here’s the problem, in this world we don’t think the truth is that important. We tolerate falsehood! We do. You could go onto any radio or TV station on the internet and look at the advertising; it is simply not true. What they are purporting is NOT what you actually see around you. And, it is not what God is doing on the earth. They don’t even recognize God any more. You don’t hear them squirm when they take Jesus’ name in vane nor do they think He even exists. They don’t care. They’ve taken it right out. There is no religion. To them, religion is their own truth, their own spin, their own way.

Even in the Old Testament, the Lord has come to us in the eighth commandment, “*Thou shalt not commit false witness against thy neighbor*” (*Exodus 20:19*). He isn’t just talking about those in a court of law, although He is certainly talking about that in a direct sense. He is also talking about the false witness we have resident within the old man, that old nature that was buried in the waters of baptism. It still tries to raise its head and say, “*No, I know the truth.*” There are a lot of peoples, a lot of countries, a lot of presidents, a lot of prime ministers that say they know the truth. President Putin of Russia thinks he knows the truth and he has a story to tell. However, when that truth comes to col-

lision with people's lives, when it comes to collision with the compassion of God, there is something wrong. President Putin believes that the church should not have gone to Rome. It should have gone right up to Peter the Great whom he believes in his opinion was the true ruler of the church and the Holy Roman Empire. Peter the Great should have been the master. So Putin takes Peter the Great's flag and it is now the flag of Russia.

As an ideal, that's not bad, to be the harbinger of all truth. But that's a lie right in itself. Our Christian alarm bells go off and the Holy Spirit within you says, "*That cannot be true.*" Well, it isn't true. Russia and Peter the Great were never the harbinger and protector of the Holy Roman Empire. What is the Holy Roman Empire any way?! The Kingdom of God should have been the focus of the Church right from the beginning not the Vatican. Not Greek Orthodox. Not the Russian Orthodox. On and on.

Mankind is constantly making up stories to explain what is happening around us. We go to the news meeting; we go to the internet; we try to find out what is happening. Am I the only one who does that? I like to know what is happening. In the early part of the last century, it was the "in thing" for everybody to be recognized as a nation. Before then there really weren't nations altogether. Some, but not every group of people were recognized as a *nation*. Germany wasn't a nation until almost the middle of that century. Suddenly they decided they really should be a nation and more. How about an empire? This kind of thing like nation-building began with the United Nations, League of Nations, all those kinds of things that tried to build on a truth that didn't exist outside of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peoples or peoples groups don't have to be nations. You can be an island and not claim to be a nation. But now, if you are going to be a member of the United Nations you have to be a nation even if you are just an island.

So we tell that story. I don't know how many centuries will go by and we'll still hold on to that story. But there were a lot of "stories" throughout civilization weren't there? For instance, the Egyptians thought the story was a lot of gods, Pantheism, etc. Everything was a god. Some thought there could be only one god and it's got to be Ra, the sun god. After all most of our heat and everything else comes from the sun. Well, they were wrong.

The Chinese believed something else. Great civilizations, all of them, and yet God deserted them. Now all that is left is a gold mummy! If that is all that is left of these nations, it is not saying much. What is left of China and its great civilization? These were wonderful things to behold in their time, centuries of people who believed what was going on. In the Middle Ages everybody believed that the Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire were it!

Now the *Lord is pouring out His Spirit once again*. He doesn't want us to go backwards. You see the Egyptians were wrong. The Chinese were wrong. The Europeans were wrong. Everybody was wrong; there is only one Person who was right. "*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.*" If we could stick to that, I think we've got it made. Lord help us to do that.

So in spite of everything we see right now. “*Don’t you see the rain?*” It is Spring. The Lord’s story is different than ours. His is Truth. So if He says He is going to bring forth the rain to soften the ground, He IS going to do that. There will be a people who respond to it. There will also be a people who do not!

So right now we have stories about what Russia is and what the Ukraine is, etc. I’m glad they think they’ve got it figured out because it is not that easy. Go back and study the Cossacks and all their history and it becomes more and more complicated as you go back through time.

We also have other untruths in our life. We have the untruths of our childhood memories. We think something happened in a certain way but it really didn’t happen quite like we remember. We like to embellish the stories. Am I the only one who does that? It is really nice to have a dramatic story. Look at our home groups when somebody wants to share a testimony. Well lets make it a little bit more dramatic, put a different spin on it than what maybe really happened. You see God is calling us to be lovers of Him, lovers of the truth, lovers of life that comes from that truth.

Now a lot of us are caught up into these “Conspiracy Theories.” Now let me tell you about conspiracies. There are ALWAYS conspiracies. Conspiracies are made when one or two people agree. Since most of the corporations in this world run on committees and boards, they are all conspiring for us to buy whatever they are selling.

There are conspiracies but there is only one Conspiracy that is going to win in the end. That is the *Conspiracy between the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit*. They conspire together for our good! Not for a fake lie, not for a fake universe but rather for the real one, for the real civilization which He has meant from the beginning when He created Adam in the Garden. He said that it was a good thing He had done. He was happy about it. Sometimes when you get up in the morning, you are not so happy with yourself. You look in the mirror and say with trepidation, “*Who is that guy?!*” Well, when you were six years old, the Lord saw you and He is just as happy now as He was then to see your smile. Because it is for that reason He came to the world to bring you JOY not anything else. He didn’t come to this world so we could have wars. . . He came into this world for *our* good. “. . . *though a mother might leave her child, I will never forsake you.*” Oh if only we could just believe that! But because we don’t we have to build walls, we have to build protections, we have to keep our cards close to our chest so to speak. There is nothing wrong with not throwing your pearls before swine, however maybe we have taken that too far.

Here is the solution to most of what I am saying. **We need to listen and not talk so much.** Right? Now that is Americana-Americana. We talk a lot. We do less listening than we should. That’s truth. Another thing we do (there is a big article about this I think I found in Scientific America or Science, one of those two), we jump to conclusions. That statement means a fallacy of compositions,

a faulty logic. We might say, “*Well, I know what it is.*” Since we have the Holy Spirit within us we should know. But not always!

## ***1 Thessalonians 5:21***

<sup>21</sup> *Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

That means don’t jump to conclusions. Right now who is the first to be on CNN? Who is the first to be on Fox news or their contributors? It is the ones who are jumping to conclusions. They may be right. Some of the time they might be. I don’t know but I want to be the one called the *discerner* of what God has for us. It all goes back to Revelation second chapter where God talks to the Church at Ephesus, “*Wake up. You guys have it all wrong.*” We are thinking, “*Oh, we’ve got to do this thing right. We have the United Nations and are the strongest military on earth. We have all these nuclear weapons. We can influence the European Union. We can influence China, Russia, etc.*” It is not working out so well.

*Revelation 2:<sup>1</sup> Jesus says, “These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup> I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for My name, and have not grown weary (in this).*

So, we are going to judge this. We are going to be the “Truth Seekers” now. All of us in this Church are. But somehow we get side tracked! A conspiracy theory is behind “*What do we think about the vaccine?*” I know a lot about biology but I don’t know enough to know ALL the things a virus can do or won’t do. I have said this before, “*One of the things that I have learned that was taught to me at the very beginning, is that when dealing with biological entities, you can only hope to understand 85% because it is too complex a system.*”

Jesus had twelve disciples and one of them deserted Him, turned on Him and turned Him in bearing false witness. How could that happen!? Well, it did. But then in Revelations it says:

<sup>4</sup> *Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.*

. . . the love for the Lord, the path of the Lord, the Truth of the Lord, the life of the Lord, not your own but His in you. We sing the song, “*It’s your breath in our lungs . . .*” Now when I was born, I cannot imagine what the first breath felt like. I don’t remember it but when I breathed it out I’m sure it was like “*AAAAHHH!*” That was not prophetic. But now when I wake up in the morning and I breathe in my first breath of the day, and I then I breath out, it is usually, “*Thank You, Jesus, for Your lovingkindness towards me.*” That is His breath in my lungs not my own. I don’t say, “*What is going to happen today?*” If you start there, you are already behind. “*What do You want me to do today?*” might be your best question.

I said this past Friday, “*The State of the Union Address should have been two words, ‘I’m sorry’.*” I’m sorry for all the children that we have killed before they were even born. I’m sorry for all the injustices, for all the corruption, for all the things for which people want: power, money, influence. What is money anyway? Money is a tool of power. Therefore let’s leave this “Introduction.”

### ***John Chapter Fourteen, Many Mansions***

I’ve read this several times; it is stained in my bible. It has such wonderful words.

*John 14:<sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled.*

Where do you live in the United States of America and the gasoline prices are going to be more than they are now, \$4.65 for premium? Unbelievable, how do you not be troubled over that? Are you on a fixed income? You’d be troubled about that. But Jesus said, “*No.*” There is a different rule, a different truth that I am going to give you this morning. It starts with the JOY of the Lord. Let not your heart be troubled by these things whether you live here or in the Ukraine or in Poland, it doesn’t matter. It is still the Kingdom that He is building. It is still His righteousness that He’s pouring forth on the earth. I heard someone say that there are more Evangelical Churches in the Ukraine than in any other country in Europe. I don’t know if that is actually true but it is close! You don’t think they are praying!?! Yes, indeed they are! The Catholic Arch-bishop said he saw and had it reported to him that there were luminous angel above the sky. Most of the sky in the Ukraine right now is dark because most of their daylight hours are night as yet. It isn’t Spring there for a little while longer. So there are a lot of angels coming to the defense of God’s people.

Men pour out craziness. Really! Putin says Russia is the leader of the Holy Roman Empire. Seriously!! No. God bring to your remembrance that Jesus is still King not you. That’s the whole problem.

*“. . . You believe in God; believe also in Me.*

*“Not just in a ‘force,’ some ethereal force in Heaven, but believe in Me,”* Jesus says.

*<sup>2</sup> My Father’s house has many mansions; if that were not so I would have told you . . .*

Mansions speaks of a place of provision, housing that has a lot of resources. So you are going to a place where you won’t be troubled. You know that there is going to be a place for you to live with a lot of resources available to you. Not only resources but places of comfort, places of strength! When you go into a mansion it is magnificent.

*. . . I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?*

So it is not just a building. He has already made it *just for you*. I like that. See I don’t really care for the comforter that’s on my bed at home right now. I

would like a little darker color. So that's probably what I will be getting. That is because Jesus knows you better than you know yourself. I don't want my will any more; I want His will to be done in my life. I've had enough of my own. I've had enough of the will of the United States or Russia or anybody else.

Take special note that the current Pope signed a contract with Islam last year saying they have started and are obligated to a new religion called "Chrislam" a combination of the two faiths! He has signed up for that. Ridiculous, how absurd, how lunatic is that.

*14<sup>3</sup> (Jesus said) . . . I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.*

You will be received to a "new place" which will be so unfamiliar that you will not be able to find your way? No. He said He would receive you to Himself; where He is there you will be also! So this will be a place in which we will be familiar. What? We've been to a place like Heaven here on earth?!

*4 You know the way to the place where I am going."*

Now He is speaking a truth there that they didn't recognize.

*5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

They all thought He was talking craziness to them now. Has the Lord ever said things to you hard to understand? What did you do? Well, you think to yourself you really want to know what He means! You go to the scriptures. Ask your friends in the Lord.

*6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.*

That scripture comes out and *rocks through Eternity*. Its focus is not just for that time but for every time, in this and the ages to come. There was no truth in Egypt with the Pyramids. There was no truth in China with their great civilization. There is no truth in Russia and their Russian Orthodox Church. The Truth is only in Jesus. In Him only! That statement might get me arrested in Russia right now. It even might get me arrested in other places as well. However it is true. What we have to say to the world in our life, our testimony to the world is "*Jesus is Lord of our lives, no one else.*" No other thing.

*6 . . . No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

You cannot somehow take a side road and get in through a back door. There is only the front door to the Kingdom of God. There is no side entrance. You see, when I was a programmer I always made a "back door" into my program. But that is not so in the Kingdom of God. I cannot go in any other way but through the door of repentance knowing how frail my own frame is, both physically and mentally. I can only know so much and I even forget a lot of that.

Now Philip says:

*8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."*

The frustration of Jesus as a human being on this earth, not omnipresent, came to Him as an emotion.

<sup>9</sup> *Jesus answered: "Don't you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"* <sup>10</sup> *Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me?*

Now, when did He ever preach that?! They should have known and did know but weren't aware of these words:

<sup>10</sup> *Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you I do not speak on My own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His works.* <sup>11</sup> *Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.*

Hear the frustration? How could they not get it? And yet they did not. How can the Church not get it? And yet the organized Church in America today has missed this. I'm not speaking a lie! For the most part they have missed it. They don't believe that Jesus is divine and they don't believe that the Father, the Creator of all things, is resident with this person, our Lord Jesus. They certainly don't believe He is going to pour it out onto the earth. That would mean they'd no longer have any control or influence. Without influence there is no money, and the money there is will have no value. You see, if I don't influence you and you refuse my money, then I don't have any money. So what is money? It is influence, how much you think I am worth.

<sup>12</sup> *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these,*

That is what He's been promising us this morning. *His rain is going to be poured out.* Greater works will we do because He has gone to the Father! It hasn't happened yet but **it is going to happen.** The advertising and the advertisers and all like them are trying to paint a picture of a global religion and a global earth homogenized in such a way that nothing exists, especially a specific religion. Do you remember the John Lennon song "*Imagine there is no religion?*" Imagine that if you will, but I am not.

That is because a true religion is not a set of doctrines. It is simply the Lord Jesus Himself in our midst. His Presence. I love the song we sing "*In His Presence there is peace.*" Not war. I'm not warring with myself. Where does war start? In the heart. Once it starts there you transfer hate, animosity, division to somebody else. That's hurt. "*It's his fault. It is their fault.*" That was really what "Mein Kampf" was all about when Hitler wrote it. He wrote that it was the Jewish nation; it was all their fault. Look what they did to our finances. Look what they did to our sons and our daughters. They are out begging on the streets. How could they do such a thing?



<sup>13</sup> *And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* <sup>14</sup> *You may ask Me for **anything** in My name, and I will do it.*

Well, that hasn't come to truth in the reality in my life yet, but I know it is true. I know it will. Sometimes we walk over the truth not seeing it. You see Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and it was a big deal, written down in scripture. However, if you went into the hospital today and prayed for an ill person and the next day they walked out, you might not even notice . . . That actually happened to me when we prayed for one of the girls in our home group. We prayed for her when the doctors gave her less than a day to live. But, she walked out of that hospital! You could say, "*That's not so big.*" Really?! Not according to the Lord.

Then Jesus says something about responsibility and ownership of this thing He has given to you. You see, the commandments of the New Testament are not a list of "do's and don'ts." When Jesus talks about commandments He is saying what He wants you to do. Now you have the Holy Spirit that *talks* to you. The Spirit of Truth. Right?

<sup>15</sup> *"If you love me, keep my commands.*

Jesus' commandments, not Moses' commandments. Not the Torah but Jesus' commandments.

<sup>16</sup> *And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—*

You cannot do what He's asking without the Spirit, who will abide with you forever! Once filled with the Spirit, He doesn't go away. It's not like a disease. You cannot get vaccinated against the Holy Spirit. That's why when scriptures say, when we walk away from the Spirit and there is blasphemy against Him, "*Woe to you. Who can bring you back?*" I would never want to get into that place. I cannot imagine being baptized, filled with the Spirit, praying in tongues and then walk away not caring what God has for you! Even saying that right now makes me shiver and say, "*Be it far from me, O God.*"

<sup>17</sup> *. . . the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

We see Jesus is talking as the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, as One entity.

<sup>18</sup> *I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

The Holy Spirit, yes, the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit. He, the Lord Jesus, the Father! In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God and He came and dwelt among us. Isn't that great?

So we see, Truth is a precious commodity. We are not seeing much of it today. If you walk away from this sermon with nothing else, know this: you are

NOT seeing a lot of truth out there. You're not! Where is hope? You are only going to hear it from here (the Church) the words from the mouths of your brothers and sisters. We are supposed to be **guarding** it (1 Thessalonians). "*Test everything and hold fast to that which is good.*"

So when a brother gets up and prophesies to us, ***I am going to test it.*** No matter who. We should ask, "*Is that true? Is that what God is saying today? Is it resonating in my heart?*" Be careful with that one as your heart may be in a wrong place! In the whole scheme of things, the Holy Spirit should say, "*Amen.*" If He says, "*Oh Me.*" You are in big trouble.

## ***Summary***

There is a big promise in the eighth chapter of the gospel of John. There is something about the truth that you may not have realized.

*John 8:<sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth,*

Jesus never said you won't know the truth. There is going to be a time when you KNOW the truth. And what is it going to do? Make you sad, despondent?

*. . . and the truth shall make you free."*

Free from what? Free from all of the lies everybody is saying around you. You are going to be free from all of the conspiracy theories. They will not concern you any more. You will find yourself in the Word of God. You will find yourself praying before the Lord. You will find yourself singing songs which you may not have ever sung before. "*Why should I be discouraged? Why should these eyes of mine cry?*" "*The eyes of the Lord are on the sparrow and I know where my Savior is, where His attention is focused.*" "*Though a mother may forsake her child, I will never leave you nor forsake you.*" What a wonderful truth that is! So we must test everything and hold fast to what is good.

That may mean we might have something we already know to be true, but we let it go. So how do we not let it go? We study it, meditate upon it. We make songs and sing songs about it. They may not be exact scripture but they have scriptural content in them. If they do not, the elders have the responsibility to change them. We do not always agree but we discuss it amongst ourselves over-seeing the flock. We try our best.

*2 Timothy 2:<sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Therefore you can have a word of truth and put your own spin on it. Preachers have that problem. If they have a word of truth and they go off and put their own spin on it, it will go places one doesn't want it to go. We err by emphasis a lot like that. A lot of scriptures have balancing scriptures to them in order to show the Truth of the heart of God. "rightly dividing and handling the word of Truth" is part of our responsibility, each one of us, not just the elders, not just

the deacons, not just the home group leaders, not just the prophets but *everyone* rightly handling the word of truth.

Can you commit yourself to that today? Amen.

### ***Micro Expressions, Body Posture***

Now here is a good one. The look on people's faces betrays them. We have micro expressions. We have body posture. Everything about YOU betrays who you are and what you think. You may not think it is true but more times than not your face betrays what you are thinking. Several weeks ago I was worshipping in the back and I had my hands raised praising the Lord. Brother Hank said, "*I could see you were really praising the Lord today.*" How could he know that? It was because of my posture and demeanor. We know each other by now. I can look around this room and I know every one of your faces. I know the countenance on them. Sometimes I wonder when I bring forth the Word of God, I think to myself, "*Why am I preaching to these people? They could preach to me!*" The countenance on your faces is speaking back to me. It is a wonderful thing that God has given to us.

Isaiah 3:9 speaks to Jerusalem about deserting the ways of God. It wasn't just Egypt that went astray. It wasn't China that went astray. These civilizations lasted for thousands of year but Israel was also the nation that God had picked out and they went astray also!

*Isaiah 3:<sup>9</sup> The look on their countenance witnesses against them, And they declare their sin as Sodom; They do not hide it.*

They don't even try to hide it; they *parade* it! America as a whole no longer believes in the Lord. They no longer believe in Christianity. They no longer believe in marriage between a husband and a wife. They no longer this, that or the other thing. Isaiah says,

*. . . Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves.*

You don't even have to look too far. Just look at those the camera was focusing on at the State of the Union Address, and you can see the fake smiles. Fake smiles are just a little more than a quarter of a second. It is not very long. You have to look for it. But a real smile isn't made up and plastered on your face. Oh if there was one person that I could have seen that was really smiling. I tried to find one that wasn't just putting on a show. I didn't find any!

*. . . For they have brought evil upon themselves.*

I sure hope it is not true but until they reverse Roe vs. Wade, I don't know how it can happen. How could the God of Heaven bless a country that kills its own children? By His mercy and grace and the prayers of His saints and only that. [Shortly after this was transcribed in the beginning of 2022, on Friday, June 24, 2022, the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the landmark piece of legislation that made access to an abortion a federal right in the United States.

The decision dismantled 50 years of legal protection and paved the way for individual states to curtail or outright ban abortion rights.

God will have mercy on who gives mercy. Ref. Romans 9:15. This reversal is a victory in answer to the Church's prayers in this hour.]

John 17:17 is such a wonderful prayer. This is a prayer Jesus has for Himself and for His disciples. You could read this over and over every day. In the Church in which I grew up, we used to say this a lot. I wonder now how many of us even knew what we were saying.

<sup>17</sup> *Sanctify them by Your **truth**. Your word is truth.*

He's not just talking about the word truth but now it is expressed as a state of being. *Sanctify them*, set them aside away from falsehood, away from the spin of every civilization known to man. You know our nation may not last as well as we thought it would. I do not want to put fear into your heart, but what if we were to end even tomorrow? *The Church would still survive*. I don't know how many nations would, but the Church would still survive. Sanctify them in Truth.

So it all comes down to the reality of the grace and mercy of God and the motivation He has put within you, righteous motivation to follow the Lord. He is the Way, the Path. You have to own that! I cannot make that path for you. If you are here because of somebody else's idea that you should be here, then you are not on the right path. You have to own it. These may not be the best musicians in the world but they do a wonderful job. Do you know why? Because *their heart is in it*.

Our motivation for being here is because we want to know the Truth, the Lord Jesus, the Way, the Path, the Truth and the Life that we have. That first breath we took isn't anything compared to the one that we are breathing now.

We sing that one song, "*His body in the grave took its first breath . . . and began to move.*" That is such a great verse; you can imagine yourself being there. There is the dead corpse of our Lord Jesus. You are sitting there watching and He is going to take His first breath. What an exciting breath that would be!! Yeah the angels just hung out there for a while for a good reason. They knew the breath of the Lord was an important thing. Breath doesn't just speak of air with oxygen and nitrogen. It is the breath of the **Spirit** that is within us! John says in his gospel, "*You are not born of the will of the flesh of a man and woman coming together. You are born of the Spirit now.*" You are a new person, a new creature. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "*If you don't understand that you need to be born-again, you cannot even see it. You don't belong here. You need to be born-again, born of the Spirit.*"

### ***Motivation. What is your motivation?***

Most people's motivation is for their survival. Yeah. Right now in Ukraine that is probably it. Power. Yeah. Other things that motivate are history,

motivations based on history. Well, *“This land belongs to me. This is what I deserve. This is what I know to be true, based on history.”*

I hate to say this because of history. I do care about it but I don't want fake history. I want real history. So when you see the Egyptian Pyramids it wasn't just a great civilization. It was one that failed. Completely and utterly before God. The same with the Chinese civilization. Other civilizations, one by one, all failed before the King of kings and Lord of lords. There is only one civilization that will survive in the end. That is the Kingdom of God. Truth.

Right now, the world is spinning a whole different story. They think we need to have one world order. They want all kinds of strange things but none of it is based on the Word and the Truth of our King, the only Path. Amen.

Our motivation should be one like a child that wants to please his Father, not just to be obedient . . . *“Yes, Dad. No. What can I do for You tomorrow that will really bless You?”* How about that? That's a rare commodity. What could you do for the Lord that would really bless Him? Well you know *in your own self* there could be nothing. But in the Lord's Spirit it would be to obey these scriptures, to guard the truth. It is to hold onto the truth, to follow His path and to purpose in your heart (because without the Lord's help you are not going to win, it won't happen) but purpose in your heart that you are going to do it, you are going to try and let that Holy Spirit within you do its work. What does Jesus say? He is going to guide you into all truth. **Not some truth, all truth.**

That is our motivation: Jesus to go out before you and guide you and direct you, following Him.

If you ever feel some force behind you “pushing” it is probably not God. It is probably the enemy. However, the One who goes *before* you is saying, *“You can do this. It isn't that hard for you.”* Amen.

*Well, Father, we pray this morning for Your mercy on this world, on civilizations that men are creating even now. Wonderful highways, beautiful cars, unbelievable weapons of destruction, also of great wealth and power. Buildings of great magnitude that no one could have possibly imagined, to heights that are dizzying, places that are set aside just for prestige and esteem, all the things that civilizations of this world are doing. None of them compare to You!*

*We pray, Lord God, that Your mercy would not just be amongst us but it would overtake us, that today, tomorrow, this week, this month and this year and through this age, we would see Your mercy increase more and more. That we would see the rain come upon the earth and not give up until those shoots come forth from the ground. Whether it is this year or the next year or the next ten years, decades, whatever. It doesn't matter to us. We are a “waiting people” because there is nothing else worth it. There is nothing else in this whole world that we could wait for that would make us happy.*

*Everything we have tasted of this world has left us flat! But when we drink from the wine, the New Wine that You have given to us, we rejoice. There is joy that is birthed in us that we can no longer contain! We ask You, Lord God, to give us that step, that spark, that breath in our mouth, in Jesus' precious name. . . Amen.*