

# Full Sermon Transcript: Toughen Up, Buttercup! *July 15, 2023*

When Jesus is my portion, a constant friend is He.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

God is good. Let us go in prayer.

Lord Heavenly Father, in Jesus' name, creator of all the universe, animals, humans, insects, and all species, the heavens and the earth, all things belong to you.

Nothing escapes your attention. Praise your holy name.

We thank you, Lord, that Judgment Day is coming, that every person will be held accountable for their actions and their lack of action.

Praise God.

Thank you, Lord, that you have called us to the truth, given us knowledge of the truth, delivered us from the Babylonian false religions, false Christianity, the denominations of the synagogue of Satan.

Thank you, Father, that you are the way, the truth, and the life.

We ask and accept your blessings and anoint you for these services, this sermon, this message.

We pray that you would speak through me and use me as your vessel.

We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world as they gather in Islamic nations and communist nations, and as they gather in dangerous nations, as all nations and every nation on earth is dangerous, for that is the time that we are living in.

We request that you will reveal reality, better understanding, and better comprehension to every member of your church and to those that are thinking about entering into your church.

And we pray that those that follow this ministry that are not active enough will become active sufficiently according to your will.

We pray that your presence, your spirit, and your power become greater and more powerful in every person that follows this ministry.

Your will prevails in Jesus' name. Amen.

Let's turn to Matthew 24.

Matthew chapter 24, and of course, that is the chapter where Jesus is listing all the different things that we need to look for as we get closer and closer to the starting of the great tribulation.

And in Matthew 24, let me say this first for the new people, that we're reading from the Alpha and Omega Bible, the restoration of the original scriptures.

Matthew 24, let's go down to verse 21, and he says, "For then there will be a great trouble, or great time of trouble, such as has not occurred from the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will be."

And he's talking about the time of what we call the great tribulation.

The great tribulation, three and a half years, as the Bible says, over and over and over.

That great tribulation, we call it great tribulation, the Bible right here says great trouble, but it could be translated as great tribulation.

And so, Brother Jared, let's change that to tribulation because that's just another way of saying trouble.

It's just different ways, different words, synonyms that mean exactly the same thing.

So we're now going to put it as there will be a great tribulation, such as has never occurred since the beginning of the world.

Now think about world history, the Napoleon Wars, US Civil War, the US Revolutionary War, World War I and World War II, the time of Hitler, the Holocaust, the Great Depression.

And yet, all of those will be minor compared to the great tribulation yet to come.

We haven't seen anything yet.

People think that they're having such a difficult time right now.

People are shaking in their boots.

Some people are afraid to leave their homes, living in fear as they walk in their own neighborhoods, living in fear as they sleep in their own beds.

Everybody thinks that their nation, their town, their city and their neighborhood is so dangerous.

You haven't seen anything yet. Nothing.

The troubles we have seen in our lifetime and the lifetimes before us, the generations before us, are nothing to be compared with the great tribulation to come.

If you're shaking in your boots right now, just think how much you're going to be shaking in your boots here in the next few years.

Amen.

Let's go to Hebrews chapter 12. Hebrews 12. Verse 1.

Let us also lay aside every weight or burden or hindrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Amen.

This cloud of witnesses is talking about examples of great faith throughout history.

Samson and Abraham and different people, Noah, different people, even the time of the Maccabees and different generations. How there have been multiple men and women who faced great obstacles, great trouble, the tribulations of their time, of their lifetime, great tribulations.

Nothing to laugh at or to sniff at.

Extremely great tribulations in their lifetime, yet nothing compared with what we're going to endure.

That's the cloud of witnesses it's talking about and it's not talking about guardian angels and it's not talking about saints in heaven because there are no saints in heaven.

Because the book of John tells us that no man has ascended up to heaven except for only the son of man that came down from heaven. Amen.

So it's not talking about people sitting on clouds watching you.

It's not talking about that at all. But rather just examples of history. That's the only thing it was talking about.

But because we do have such great examples of history, we should, because we have those perfect examples of men and women both in different generations, let us therefore lay aside or push aside every way, every burden, every hindrance and every sin which is entangling us.

There are people that are tangled up, their ankles are in ropes and chains of fear and complacency and laziness and confusion because they don't want to let go of the false religion, the false churches and their doctrines.

There's really no reason to be confused about what the truth is if you read the Bible.

It's really very easy and very simple.

It really is easy to know the truth when you're willing to read the Bible and accept what it says in the original words and recognize the history of religion.

The history of the churches, where all these churches came from and look at what you're seeing with your own eyes of these churches. Amen.

The fruit of false religion, the fruit of these false denominations.

All of this and more. It is not confusing. Amen.

And the last sentence of verse one says, let us run with endurance, the race that is set before us.

This is a race where you have to run with endurance.

In other words, not give up. A lot of people too easily give up. Amen.

Verse two, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

That there are too many people with their eyes, their attention, their worry, their concern for the dangers of their community, their nation, their town, whatever.

The problems of the economy, different things that they have their eyes upon too much.

Of course, I know that we should not bury our heads in the sand.

We do not need and should not put on blinders and be blind to the reality around us.

We do have to be aware of economic problems and political problems and crime and dangers that are present.

However, there are people that are putting too much of their heart, too much of their mind upon those things and not enough upon trusting God for protection and guidance and health and strength and safety and provision and so forth.

We need to fix our eyes upon Jesus more because that's how you're going to be able to run this race as it gets more difficult.

It says concerning Jesus that He is the author and the perfecter of faith.

So if you need your faith perfected, look upon Jesus more.

Also concerning the same Jesus, it says here, who for the gladness set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and has set down at the right hand of the throne of fields.

For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Verse 4, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin. Amen.

Notice how it says not yet there in verse 4. I'd like for you to underline or highlight or circle the words not yet.

In other words, it's probably coming. If you're going to stay with Jesus, then there may very well come a time that in order to not sin that you would have to shed blood through torture or death or injury.

But how many people would be willing to suffer blood loss or loss of life in order to not sin? Not too many people.

We see the example right now with the COVID injections, the vaccine, how people have so easily forsaken wisdom and sowed themselves, their health, their lives to keep a job.

Doctors, nurses and other people, educators, teachers, other people around the world that have basically sowed their soul to the devil in those injections.

Millions, millions of people. And they're going to do it again. And other people are going to do it again and again. And people are already doing that from Gab and other outlets where they don't care what they are reading.

They don't boycott anything. They never leave anything because they're comfortable with the sin that they see. It doesn't disturb their spirit sufficiently when they see the evil and the wickedness right in front of their eyes.

On those social media outlets, Gab and Truth Social and other where there's so many Nazis. And they just turn a blind eye to it. And it doesn't disturb them sufficiently.

And people that don't boycott anything because they love the food or the drink or the service or the website more than what they love righteousness and truth and God. Amen.

But I did mention more than fear. I did mention complacency and laziness because those are things that do hinder people and their spiritual growth. Amen.

If we're going to run this race to the end with endurance, then we have to be able to run stronger as the trials and tribulations of this world and the temptations on the internet become stronger and stronger and stronger.  
The vaccines and different things are going to be coming out in the next few months, the next few years. The things that will entangle people and entrap people are in great number.  
If we're going to be able to endure and to resist, then we have to come out of complacency and be able to run stronger for the Lord. Be able to boycott more things and become more active in the church. Amen.  
Because God is not seeking a complacent, lazy church, but rather he is seeking warriors for his army. Revelation 19 and Zechariah 14, as well as other places in scripture, describe the saints as being the army of the Lord.  
That's not a comfortable image or description of saints for most people that think that they are saved because they don't want to fight. They don't want to have to run harder than what they already are running. Amen.  
And I got to tell you, some people think that they're running really, really, really hard and they're just barely moving. That's what I see. That's the reality.

Let's go to 1 Corinthians chapter 16, 1 Corinthians 16, verse 13.  
Be on the alert. Stand firm in the faith. Act like men. Be strong. Amen. There's a lot there. Be on the alert. Amen. We must be on the alert.  
There's a lot of people that think they are saved and they are not on the alert. They think the great tribulation is not until 10, 20, 30, 50, 100 years from now. That's not being on the alert. Amen.  
If you're on the alert, then it's extremely easy to recognize in the world of news, the events of today, that the great tribulation is extremely, extremely near.  
And that must be our mentality, even as that was the mentality of the apostles, the disciples, and the prophets of old, both Old and New Testament. They were on the alert and they fully thought that the coming of the Lord and the end of time would be in their lifetime.  
Every one of them. Absolutely. That's very clear in scripture. They said the day of the Lord is near. That was 2,000 years ago. They thought Christ was coming back again in their lifetime.  
And if that's the way that the prophets and apostles thought, then that is the way we should think as well. Especially now that we have nuclear weapons. Especially now that we have seen the fulfillment of Ezekiel 37 of the first fulfillment of the restoration of the Jews back to the land of Israel.  
These different things that the world could not come to the great tribulation until these things were fulfilled and we have seen them fulfilled.  
The next part of this verse, and bound of the servant, if you maybe could try to answer this person's question, I'd appreciate it. Thank you very much. I have my microphone up pretty loud here. I don't know what this person could do.  
I'm going to go ahead and turn the microphone up a little bit higher. Maybe that might help a little bit. I can't turn it up too much because then it will cause feedback. But I did turn it up just a little bit. Maybe that helped.  
Anyway, the next verse, verse 13, stand firm in the faith. Amen. That reminds me of many different verses that say to hold tight. To hold tight. It says that over and over and over.  
And that's what we got to do. And there's a reason for it. Why it tells us that. Because the storm is going to blow more. Amen. The storm is going to blow more.  
It's going to get harder. I guarantee you that. And the next sentence there says act like men and be strong. Now of course, God wants, I want, we want for women to act like women. Men to be men, women to be women. Amen.  
We want everybody to stay within their proper gender role. But at the same time, both the men and the women need to get stronger mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically.  
Both genders, men and women, need to become stronger spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. The people of our generation, even the best of the best, are too weak.  
The things that people eat, all the corn syrup that's in the food, the soy, the fluoride, the injections, the poison that's in the air, the poison that's in the water, the poison that's in the food.  
The poison of some of the music, the magazines, the mainstream media, the government, false religion, false churches. The list goes on and on and on. The different poisons that are poisoning your mind and causing people to be too complacent about their salvation, about the church, about working for the Lord. About many different things. About preparing for the great tribulation, so forth. Amen.

Now the next verse, before we go on to the next verse, let me say this as well. To act like men is that, of course, we know that the scripture says that in the kingdom, in the future kingdom, after Jesus returns, there's a context there that there being neither male nor female really is talking about in paradise. It's not talking about in the thousand year millennium. It's not talking about the hundred years.  
But it's talking about after your turned spirit, rather that's the first resurrection or the paradise. Once you are turned spirit, there's neither male nor female. Because once you turn spirit, then you no longer have the flesh. Right? Therefore you're not male or female once you turn the spirit and don't have your fleshly parts anymore.  
And because of that, it is truthful that even women need to become more, and we have to be careful about this because there's a lot of women that are already too much of what I'm about to say. Right?  
So it's got to be the proper balance because there's way, way, way, way too many women on this earth that are as macho as macho can get. Wearing the pants of the family and their husbands are trembling in fear of the wife. So that's way too much.  
Women are in control of their house rather than a man and so forth. And I'll tell you a large part of the problem of single mothers

and single women, and that is a problem, being a single mother is a problem. Being a single woman of a mature age is a problem and it is not God's will. I guarantee you that is not God's will. It's not God's design. It's not natural. And one of the main causes, reasons for the single motherhood and single women, which is contrary to the will of God, is that women and men both have been programmed and brainwashed by society, by the devil, to think that men are evil in every aspect. That a man should never look at another woman, have another girlfriend, have another wife, or anything. That men should be monotonous. You know I'm trying to say that. They don't recognize how the Bible does teach pornography. I have to say it because it's the truth. The New Testament never condemns the pornography nor forbids the pornography. A man having more than one wife. So these women are divorcing their husbands for doing what is natural to a man. How God made men. What a man really, for the most part, cannot control because of the way God made him.

I just talked to a man that I met just a few days ago when me and brother Jared went hiking. We met this really cool dude. Deceived, lost in Babylon, as everybody is that you meet out in the world. Right? I don't understand people that think, you know, they tell me a story about talking to somebody and they're like, I don't know whether he's saved or not. How can you not know? How can you not know? And why would you even think he might be saved? When are you ever going to meet a saved person when you're out and about somewhere? You're not going to meet no saved person. Chances are, odds are, you're not going to meet a saved person as you're walking out and about in this wicked world. Because Revelation 12 says that Satan has deceived the entire world. If the entire world is deceived, that means the entire world is lost. Hello? Amen?

If the entire world is deceived, the entire world is lost. So how come you don't know whether somebody's saved or not? Come on now. Sharpen up. Amen?

We were talking to this man and he was pretty cool. He had thought that he had gotten saved. He was a real big, macho guy, but he was getting older as I am and getting tired as I am. Suffering from age as everybody does when they get older and older. And one good thing that I can say about him is that he was a real man. Except that he felt that he had sinned and had repented from doing what God made a man to do. Have sex with women.

That he had repented from that. He had been programmed, brainwashed by all of this false religion, false churches, false Christianity. Amen. Men are having to repent of things that are not sinful.

Of course, the Bible teaches that a man should not lust after a married woman. It teaches that. But that's not what he was talking about. And that's not what most people are talking about. Amen.

Your traditional, average, traditional Christian, your average, traditional Christian, so-called Christian pastor in church and denomination and congregation, they think that everything a man does is sin. Everything. Everything a man does is sin. He can't do that. He can't do this. He can't do that. He can't do this.

Religious legalism programming. People need to get back to reading the Bible and questioning the traditional teachings. What does the Bible really, really, really say about it? Where's the proof? Amen. Show me the pudding. Amen.

Act like men. Be strong. So, there's a lot of women who are overly abundantly masculine because they've been taught that they don't need a husband. They don't need a man. They don't need somebody to protect them and provide for them. They can do it all themselves. Therefore, they're out there making their own careers.

And that's why children are out of control. Amen. That's exactly why women are out of control. And why children, same thing, are out of control. I don't care who I offend. Because somebody's got to say the truth. Somebody. Somebody. And if I don't say it, ain't nobody else saying. Right? Somebody's got to say it.

There's a war on masculinity. There's a war on men. There's a war on family. And it's all the same thing. And that is the spirit of feminism. Of a woman trying to be a man.

But at the same time, there are women that are too weak that have absolutely no toughness, no strength, mentally, emotionally. That they're too caught up and too obsessed with the fingernail polish, cosmetics, makeup, toenail polish.

Foot massage, pedicure, manicure, all these other things. They're too soft. So you do have that group as well even though you don't have that group as much as you used to. Right? But there is a very small number of that group as well.

So we have to have the proper balance. A woman that is still somewhat soft and feminine, as a woman should be, that's not losing her gender role. But yet, it's tough enough to help on the farm, to help in the house, to do chores, certain chores, certain chores, as men have their own chores.

And everybody in the house, everyone of all ages, helping out and doing their part. Amen?

But now, you don't have people in the house doing their part because everybody's at work. And nobody's taking care of the children except for maybe a stranger being paid to take care of the children. That's not right. That's not right.

A woman should take care of her own children.

Let's go to 2 Timothy 2, page 238. 2 Timothy 2, chapter 2, verse 1.

You, therefore, my son, Paul is writing to Timothy, calls him my son, spiritually, tells him to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these things to faithful people who will be able to teach others also.

He's not telling Timothy to entrust the gospel with everybody and anyone, but rather only with certain people who are able to

teach others. That's not everybody.

And not everybody is called to be a teacher. You might want to teach, but that doesn't mean that you are called to teach. That's two different things.

There are some people that need to humble themselves and realize that they're not called to teach. They would be better off just pointing people to the website.

Verse 3. Suffer hardship with me. Paul is telling Timothy that he should be willing to suffer. To suffer with Paul. That these two men should suffer together, not alone. Amen?

Thinking now of a verse that talks about that we should rejoice when another rejoices. And how about the other part of that verse? To cry or mourn maybe when the other person mourns.

Whatever. Whatever the other part is. One positive, one negative. But whether it's good or bad, you do it with your brothers and your sisters of truth. Amen?

That we're in this together. And you can't say that you're in it together just by meeting once a week. Because that's not being in it together. It's not. Just not.

So everybody's under that religious programming, brainwashing, that they show up one time a week, shake hands, say I love you, and then goodbye, good riddance, I don't want to see you or talk to you the rest of the week.

You think that's being loving. You think that's being family. You think that's being part of the church. When it's not. When you're neglecting the church and the pastor and the other brothers and sisters the rest of the week.

And then you just show up on the seventh day and act like everything's okay. It's not okay. Where have you been the rest of the week? How come you've not text or called or sent a private message or sent a chat message?

You've not emoticoned anything on social media. You've not signed in to the Parrhesia or MeWe, either one. Where have you been the rest of the week? Oh, I'm too busy. I'm too busy. I'm too busy.

Well guess what? I'm too busy too, but I still make time to present myself to the church and to God. Amen? People are just full of excuses. That's all it is. Excuses, excuses, and laziness is what it really boils down to.

They don't have time for God and they don't have time for the church family. And that's not right. You should make time for the church family. Present yourselves to the church throughout the week.

I'm not saying that you've got to spend two hours on social media every day. That's not what I'm saying. That's not what I'm requiring or expecting. But it could only take five or ten minutes to log in to MeWe or Parrhesia and look at your notifications.

See if anybody had sent you a message. See what I have posted. You don't have to click on every link and read the entire article. I don't even read those articles. I don't. About what Biden is doing and what Hunter Biden is doing and what Putin is doing and this and that and this and that.

Just the headline tells you all you need to know. Just the headline. Amen? It don't take that long to go down the list of headlines and notifications. It really doesn't.

And then click. When you're seeing those headlines, when you see a headline, click like. Click something. Click I hate you. Click something. Do something. Say something so that I know that you were there.

That's presenting yourself to the Lord. That's presenting yourself to the church. That's making yourself known that you had entered the sanctuary. Amen. That's what you need to do. That's what God wants from people. Amen. People don't understand where I'm coming from because they've never been a pastor. Amen.

But I don't want to be preaching to a dead wall. Right? I don't want to be posting to a dead wall. I want interaction. I want an amen, brother. Amen. I want an amen, brother. Because I don't want to be talking to a dead wall. Amen.

Amen. God wants people to be active. Amen. This ain't just what I want and what I need. God wants people to be active.

But people are mashed potatoes is what comes to my mind. People are mashed potatoes. How a mashed potato, you just clump it down on the plate and it lands heavy and it sits. It doesn't shake. It doesn't wiggle. It doesn't move because it is a hard clump. And that's the church.

The church is a hard, unmoving, heavy clump that doesn't move even if you shake the plate hard. Amen.

You could throw that plate across the room and some of it will still be on the plate when it lands.

Again, you can't get people to do anything anymore. You can't get people to do anything at all anymore. Nothing.

Let's go to 1 Timothy. Let me see where we are. Okay. Stay here in 2 Timothy but go up to chapter 1. 2 Timothy chapter 1 verse 7.

2 Timothy chapter 1 verse 7. For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and self-control. I just shared that I think it was last week maybe.

But God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power. And power is the opposite of fear.

But I've got to be honest just like I've been honest all day because somebody's got to say it.

When I look at the church I see I don't see power outside of this pulpit. Amen.

I do not see power in the church in South Africa whatsoever at all. Zero. Zero. Absolutely zero.

I see power when I look in Algeria. Amen. I don't see any power in the church in South Africa at all.

Just got to be honest with you. But rather what I see is fear and fear again and fear again and fear again and again. Shaking in your boots.

Just got to be honest because if I'm not honest then we can't fix it. Amen. We can't fix something unless you acknowledge the problem.

Let's look at the book of James. James chapter 1. That's right after Hebrews.

James chapter 1 verse 12. Verse 12. Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial. For once he has been approved he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love him. Amen. But those who love him we have to define because there's a lot of false Christians and other false religions outside of Christianity who think that they love God. But the Bible says, that is the holy scriptures say, how can you say you love me and keep not my commandments. If you love me you would keep my commandments. Amen. And they say the commandment is just to love people. And that's it. They don't understand the Bible at all. They don't understand the Bible at all. What about the commandment of the Lord to do the communion? Passover communion. And John even says, when I say John I mean the book of John, tells us that if you do not take his body, his blood, that's his wine, his unleavened bread, that's the Passover communion. If you do not do that, you have no life in yourself. No life. That means eternal life. You're not saved. You don't have the Holy Ghost. It's clear. It's easy. This is not confusing. The Bible spells it out to you pretty much straight out. Amen. Love is more than a feeling. Love is action. Amen. And words are empty and vain without the action to back up the words. And so is the thought, also in vain. You can think all you want to and talk all you want to. But unless you have the works to back up the thoughts and the words, then it's all in vain. The book of James right here, we're in James right now. The book of James tells us that faith without works is dead. Being alone. Amen. So you can think you love God and say you love God and think you are saved and think you're part of the church all you want to. But the reality is without works, you're dead and you don't have life in you. Amen. We need to be working for the Lord in your proper role. That might not be as a teacher or a pastor or an apostle or a prophet, but you can work for the Lord within your proper role. Amen. And for all of us that would be participating in the groups, in the worship services, presenting a song, a testimony, something like that. I loved how Brother Simon, when we had a chat for the people in Africa a few days ago, how Brother Simon stepped up to the plate to sing a song. And I got to tell you, I was shocked because I asked for that every week. Every week. Every Saturday. Saturday after Saturday. Week after week after week after month after month after year after year. Nobody ever offers to do a song or a testimony or anything. So I was shocked and rejoicing and happy and I'm still happy and I'm still rejoicing that Simon, a newcomer to the truth, a newcomer to the church, bringing some life into the church. Amen. Amen. Actually, somebody is actually willing to do something for a change. Amen. God is good.

James 1 verse 12. I'm going to read this again, if I've even read it before. I think I read it while I go, but it seems like I haven't because I guess I haven't preached it sufficiently. Verse 12. Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial. We need to be under trial. Amen. It doesn't say blessed is a man without trial. That's not what it says. Because Bible promises that you're going to suffer. It promises that Bible really does promise that you're going to suffer. That you're going to be hated for His name's sake. Amen. And when it comes to great tribulation, or even before then, you might even get arrested for His name's sake. Bible talks about that. Amen. So we are blessed when we preserve under trial. But people don't want trial. Right? They don't want trouble. They don't want difficulty. They want everything easy, easy, easy, pleasing. They want everything soft. Soft potatoes. But we've got to have the stake. We've got to have the harder, more difficult times of life because those harder, more difficult times of life are more rewarding than the soft, beautiful, gentle times of life. Amen. Brother Jared here loves to chop wood. Other people in our modern society would prefer a chainsaw. It's easier. It's faster. But Brother Jared would prefer an axe, not a chainsaw. He prefers the axe, the harder, more difficult, longer way, harder way of chopping wood. Because it's more primitive. Because it's more manly. Because you get a better workout. It's more rewarding. We need the more difficult trials of life. We need the more dangerous neighborhoods. We need the more dangerous towns and cities and states. We need more war, not less. People praying that we don't have war. We need more war. We don't have enough war. We don't. And that's what's wrong with the young men today. Because they've never had to fight for freedom. Therefore, they don't appreciate freedom. Amen. You don't appreciate it if you don't have to fight for it. The young people today are too soft, too weak, too feminine. Because they never had to fight for freedom. Even about salvation. The Bible says to work out our salvation with fear and tremble. It's a different type of fear there. That's proper fear. Amen. That's fear of the Lord. Amen. That's the right type of fear. It's a different type of fear than what I've been talking about today. But it shows that we should work out our salvation. That's more than just believing. We work out that salvation just like we work out acts that we have to chop away at the lies and deception and programming and brainwashing and complacency and laziness and all the other sin and weights and burdens and wrongful fears. And everything else that entangles us or weighs us down that's going to prevent us from the first resurrection. We have to take a mental and spiritual axe and destroy those strongholds. Amen. This is God preaching, not me. Because I don't have enough mental alertness or mental anything to be able to preach this. This

is God. Amen.

And it says here in the middle of verse 12, for once he has been approved. That means that we need to be approved by God, the judge. We have to be approved. It's not so easy as only stepping in the door and you're automatically approved. But that's what traditional religion thinks. That's what they've been taught to believe. As long as you step your foot in the door, you said that one prayer, you said that one confession, that you're automatically saved and you don't have to do anything else the rest of your life, you've made it and you've already been approved.

That's not what the Bible teaches at all. The Bible teaches the requirement to bear fruit, to work, to be a worker and to keep his commandments. Amen.

To live a life of holiness that is defined by scripture. Not a life of holiness described or described by false religion. People don't know what holiness is. Because their idea of holiness is based upon traditional legalism, false doctrines, rather than what the Bible really, really, really says.

I've known a lot of people who preach holiness that have no idea what holiness is. Just because they preach it, doesn't mean they know what they're talking about.

So we've got to be approved. And finally in verse 12 he says, he will receive the crown of life. We've got a reward awaiting us. Amen.

There is a reward, a lot of rewards, awaiting us who has been promised to those who love Him. That means really love Him.

Those that keep His commandments, those that obey Him, those that will work for Him.

How can you say you love Him and not work for Him? Amen. How can you say you love Him but not do a work for Him? You're just lying. Just a liar. If you don't want to work for the Lord, you are a liar.

Let's go over to 1 Peter chapter 1.

He's 260. 1 Peter 1. That's right after James. 1 Peter 1 verse 3.

Are you protected by the power of God?

And do you believe that you are protected by the power of God? And if you believe that you are protected by the power of God, then why would you need to request that of that which you have already obtained? Amen.

Why ask for something? Request something that you already have. Amen. You either have faith or you don't have faith. Amen.

We are protected by the power of God through faith for salvation, ready to be revealed or manifested in the end time or last time. In other words, it's a process that will go all the way to the resurrection.

Verse 6. In this you greatly rejoice even though now for a little while if necessary that you have been distressed by various trials. Notice what it's saying here.

What it's saying here is that even though, it says the words even though, we have been distressed not just by one trial but various different trials, several trials. We've got different things coming against us, absolutely.

But even though we're suffering these multiple trials, we're still at the same time greatly rejoicing that we are protected by the power of God. That's what it says. Amen.

So even though the trials, difficulties of this life are numerous, multiple, we're still rejoicing that we are protected by God.

Verse 7. So that the proof of your faith so that Pastor Tim doesn't question your faith or anyone else question your faith because there is proof of your faith.

A faith that is without proof is not faith because faith is the substance, something you can touch, something you can see. Faith is not invisible anymore. It was at one time invisible when the fruit was not there.

But at some point in the season, the faith must bear fruit. Amen. Without fruit, faith is dead. Amen. The fruit of your works must be manifested. There must be proof of your faith to be approved. Amen.

We are witnesses of one another. And without proof of your faith, I cannot witness of your faith. I have to be able to say, look at Brother Simon. He did the singing. That's proof of his faith.

He could have said, Brother Simon could have said, I don't sing good or I don't have this, I don't have a musical instrument, I don't have a piano, whatever. He could have made every excuse in the book.

But he stepped up to the plate, seized the opportunity with bonus and courage, and exercised his faith and gave the proof of the pudding. Amen.

Praise God. So that the proof of your faith is more valuable than gold, which is perishable. What is the most valuable?

What is the most valuable? A job, a house, a career, or the trials and difficulties of life. The trials and difficulties of life.

And you passing those tests, because that's what they are. The trials and difficulties of life, they are tests. And when you pass those tests and you endure those trials, you endure those difficulties, that produces fruit and the proof of your faith.

If you step up to the plate and be active in that battle. It's not enough to just ride the battle. It's not enough to just ride alone in the tank. It's not enough to just ride on the horse, but not use the spear.

There's a lot of people that are just along for the ride. And they think that as long as they're in the same car, as long as they're in the same boat, as long as they're in the same congregation, well then that's going to get me in.

But let me tell you, when you stand on judgment day of the judgment throne of God, you're not going to be able to say simply, I got baptized. Pastor Tim approved me. I came to services once a week.

Those things aren't sufficient all alone of themselves. You have to also be able to present your testimony that you did these other works. That you were active throughout the week instead of just one day a week. Amen.

You can't just be alone for the ride.

Continuing in verse 7, more valuable than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in the

praise and glory and honor at the appearing of Jesus the Christ. In other words, at the judgment seat. Amen.

Even though he may appear at different points to different people.

Too many people are pursuing the gold and the silver, the economy, the finances, but they're not spending enough time pursuing God, faith, working for the Lord. Amen.

Let's go to Jeremiah. Actually, before we go to Jeremiah, let's go to the book of Revelation while we're here in the New Testament. Revelation 12. Revelation chapter 12.

I'll tell you, it is hot in here. I am in a furnace.

Maybe I'll pull up my pant legs. Maybe God won't care because I am burning up.

There's going to be a hard day of suffering today in this heat. Oh.

And if I had just one more person, I could send that person to get me some ice. I don't want you to leave because you're the only one here.

But if we had one more person, just one more, just one more, then I could have some ice. But instead I'm going to have to suffer.

Revelation 12 verse 7. Revelation 12 verse 7. And there was a war in heaven that's not talking about the war before Adam and Eve, but rather this is talking about the war that is going to occur at the start of the great tribulation.

So this has not been fulfilled yet. That there's going to be a war in heaven. Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon, and the dragon is his angels waging war.

So this is a war of both the good angels and the bad angels in heaven at the start of the great tribulation.

Verse 8. And they, the bad angels, were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down.

Again, the circuit of Ode is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the entire world. The entire world is lost.

And he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, Now the salvation and the power of the kingdom of our Theos and the authority of his Christ has come for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accused them before our Theos day and night.

And they, the saints, the church, overcame him, the devil, by the blood of the lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

For this reason, rejoice, O heavens, the good angels, you that dwell in them, that would be good angels of God, and woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you having great anger, knowing that he has a short time.

That's proof that this is not talking about the first war in the heavens, thousands or millions, billions of years ago. This is the start of the great tribulation, there's only a short time left.

Verse 13, when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman, the church, who had gave birth to the male, meaning that Israel gave birth to Jesus, and Israel is now the church as far as we are spiritual Israelites.

That's what it's talking about.

Verse 14, that the two wings of a great eagle was given to the woman, the church, so that she could fly into the wilderness, a secret place, to her place, where she was nourished, will be nourished for a time.

And times, and half a time, that adds up to three and a half times, that's three and a half years, nourished for three and a half years from the presence of the serpent, hidden from the devil.

And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, the church, so that he might try to cause her to be swept away with the flood.

But the earth helped the woman, the church, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river, the flood, which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

So the dragon was enraged, angry, with the woman, the church, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, the remnant, who keep the commandments of the theos and hold to the testimony of Jesus. Amen.

So what we see here then is at the start of the great tribulation, the war in heaven, the dragon, and the fallen angels being cast down to the earth again, and they immediately wage war against the church, the remnant of the church that is not hidden in secret locations on the earth.

This is exactly opposite of a pre-tribulation rapture. The church is not taken up to heaven, but rather the church, the true church, which is extremely, extremely, extremely small, almost non-existent, is taken into a secret, isolated place or places on earth.

That's very clear here, very clear. That's very clear. That's not difficult to understand, right? Not difficult to understand.

But not all of the true church goes into that secret place of hiding and protection. Not all of it, even though it's the true church, right?

Some people in the true church do not go into the secret places for whatever reason. God's plan is part of it, and part of the church may just need more trial.

Some of the church may be in need of more trial, more testing, because some people have not yet been tested sufficiently.

And I believe, as I stand here right now, I believe that's part of why some people won't go into the safety, because they need more testing.

There could be other reasons as well, different for different people. But in either case, there's still a trial. Even if you go into the secret location of safety, there's still going to be trial there as well.

The Bible talks about the entire earth, all the inhabitants of the earth being shaken. Even those in the wilderness will still be shaken and continue to be tested to a different extent in different ways.

When you look at the Israelites crossing the Red Sea and going into the wilderness for 40 years, they were tested, even though they made it into the wilderness, which is exactly what this is called here, a wilderness.

So even in the wilderness, you're still tested.

Both groups are going to continue to be tested, different measures of testing, different ways of testing. We need to be able to accept the testing. A lot of people want to push away the testing. Amen. Noah's flood had a reason. It was needful. The great tribulation to come is nothing to push away. We can't push it away. We cannot pray it away. It is needful. We need the great tribulation to come. We need it. We need it bad, every one of us. Too many people trying to pray away the difficult things that we need. Amen. Let's now go to Jeremiah chapter 12. Jeremiah in the book of prophets here, Jeremiah chapter 12, if you have the paperbacks, page 60 if you have the paperbacks.

Jeremiah chapter 12, verse 5. Your feet run and they cause you to faint. Think about that. Your feet run, chapter 12, verse 5, yet they cause you to faint. And where it says and, let's put yet, or but. So your feet might be running, your feet might be moving rather than sitting still. You might actually be active in the church or for God. But yet at the same time you're still fainting. You're still too weak even though you're moving. And then it says how will you prepare, because we do need to prepare for the future and the trials and tribulations and difficulties of the future, if we're already fainting how will you prepare to ride upon the horses? That ride upon the horses I think of two things. I think about Revelation 19, that if we are caught up to heaven for the first resurrection, for the marriage supper of the Lamb, and then 43 and a half days later, or 42 and a half days later, whichever it is, we come down on white horses at the battle of Armageddon, helping Christ to defeat the enemy. Amen. We need to prepare for that day. We need to prepare for that day of riding upon white horses of the battle of Armageddon. We need to be training for that day to come, now. And I also think upon riding upon horses in the time when there's no more cars and airplanes and ships for the average person. And I also think of certain men that are called for a war of World War III, because there will be certain men that are called by God to fight on both sides. There will be some men called by God who are Russian or Chinese or Assyrian within those armies as a chastisement against the Israelite nations, America and Australia and Canada and the UK. God describes, the Scripture describes the Assyrian army and the Assyrian king, the anti-Christ, as being the rod of God's anger, the paddle stick, the instrument that God will use to judge and chastise America and Israel, the other Israelite nations. And then God will also at the same time rise up men to fight on the American side and for the British, Ireland and Scotland, warriors to fight against the Russians and Chinese. And some of those will live for three and a half years, continue to fight in different areas, different holdouts, different strongholds, different hideouts and guerrilla warfare for three and a half years. And finally being given victory against Russia and China and Syria and Iran in the final one year and especially in the final month and the final day. So this is running on horses or riding on horses, fighting on horses, both spiritually and for other people even physically and really all of us physically to some measure. And if we're already fainting in the race that we're in right now, how are we going to prepare or even live or survive in the battles to come which are going to be much more tremendous?

The second sentence of the same verse here, verse five says, and you have been confident in the land of your peace. How will you do in the roaring of Jordan? In other words, the worst is still to come. We need to get stronger in the current trials, the current difficulties, have more faith, a greater, larger measure of faith, a greater, larger measure of trusting God, relying upon God, believing in His power, and believing in His ability to answer our prayers. His ability, believing in and trusting in His faithfulness to positively answer our prayers. That as long as we are praying and living in His will and what we ask for is according to His will, that He's faithful to give us what we need. Amen. Therefore, we don't really need to ask Brother Joe and Sister Mary and everybody else, please pray for me. Please pray for me! Because you can say your own prayer to God Almighty and He actually will answer your prayer, not Mary Jo's, but your prayer that He will answer. Amen. When we are babies in Christ, we want to ask everyone for prayer because we're weak in faith as a baby in Christ. But as time goes along, as time increases, as we continue to develop our relationship with God, we no longer need to ask everybody and anybody for prayer for every little thing because we have developed our own relationship with God. We have learned to trust God for ourselves, that God will answer our prayers. Amen. If God is going to answer my prayer, then why do I need to ask everybody else to pray for me? God is able to answer my own prayer. Amen. And as we also continue, as time goes along, we continue in the church, we also should be developing, trusting one another that we are praying for each other. You don't have to say, Pastor Tim, pray for me unless it's a new development, of course. If it's a new development, a new event, then of course I would want you to let me know what's happening in your life, the new development, of course. But once that prayer request has been made, lay it at the altar and walk away. You don't have to bring the same request to God to the altar or to Pastor Tim or to the church every week. You left it at the altar last week. It's still there. We're still praying for it. We're still praying for you. People need to learn to trust the

church family that we really are praying for you. Amen.

And stop thinking that we're not. Amen.

If any member of the church is not continuing to pray for you, God will deal with that person. Amen. God will deal with that person.

God has a way of chastising and bringing things to remembrance and so forth. But we need to trust that our brothers and sisters are praying for the request that you already made 10, 15, 20 times.

How can I forget it when you've already brought it up 20 times? How can I forget to pray? You don't have to bring it up every week. I already know. I've already heard it 10 times. That's why I already know it. Come on now.

Recently, I was undergoing, and to some extent still undergoing, a very tremendous trial. A very, very tremendous trial. But I did not present it to the church in the sermons, social media, chat.

I did not present it to the church because even though it was a tremendous trial, why do I need to ask everybody for prayer when I know how to pray myself? When I know God myself? When I know the Father myself? Why do I need to ask everybody else to pray for me? Amen.

We ask when we feel weak. But we should not always feel weak. Amen.

If we do feel weak, then by all means ask for prayer. The church is here for you. When you're weak, we're here to hold you up, to support you, to encourage you.

But we should not always be weak. More often than not, we need to be strong and have strong faith knowing that God is able. That God sees our trials and tribulations.

That God loves us. That God is faithful. That God is powerful. Amen.

Everything I have shared with you today is in the attempt to build the church up to be stronger, more muscular, more bold, more brave, to help you to become a warrior in Christ Jesus.

To be more than a conqueror. To do more than just conquer. But to thrive in the kingdom. To be part of the kingdom. To be an active part of God's kingdom. And to usher in the kingdom now. Amen.

I thank God that I did not grow up in a soft, comfortable, safe neighborhood. Thank God. I thank God for all the trials and difficulties in my life, the poverty, the times when I did not have much to eat, because it made me stronger.

When it comes time of the great tribulation, the people who have lived a soft, comfortable, easy life, they will have the most difficult time adjusting to trials and tribulations, hitting them for the first time.

Thank God for our poverty, our difficulties, our trials, our tribulations. Thank God that we have to lock our doors and windows at night and learn to lay down and sleep, trusting that if we have done our part to lock the door, to lock the window, to lock the car, and lay a gun next to the bed, as long as we have done our part, then God will do His part. And if something still happens, then we enter into warrior mode. Amen.

When I think of that, what comes to my mind, is I've heard stories over my lifetime of when demons were sent into certain people's houses. And the demons fled from those houses saying that they would never, ever go back to that house again. Because the person living in that house was a great warrior, bold and courageous against the demon, and cast that demon out and made that demon tremble, shaking in his boots. Amen.

We need to be warriors strong and bold and powerful. That if a demon is sent into our home, that we take action, bold and courageous, cast that demon out, and that demon leave and tell other demons or other people, say, Don't send me back there. Do not send me back there. I'm not going. Amen.

Men, take leadership, not only in your family, but in your neighborhood and society and nation. There are groups and organizations in every nation on earth.

Organizations that are for the purpose of improvement of society. Organizations that help shape your society.

We should be, as a church, a people that are active in our community to change the situation, what little bit that we can.

The reason that evil has conquered your neighborhood is your own complacency. And you should take responsibility for what you did not do to prevent the current situation.

Neighborhoods and cities are dangerous all across the world. My own city right here is dangerous. There's not a city on this earth that's not dangerous.

And everybody in every city and every nation thinks their nation is the worst, and maybe one nation is the worst. But no matter what nation you live in physically, if you're truly saved, you are a citizen of the kingdom of God, and you have the power of life and death in your voice if you would use it and believe in it. Amen.

You have the power to curse the wicked buildings, the wicked headquarters, do some power walking. You've got power if you would believe in it and use it. Stop shaking in your boots.

Because if the devil sees that you are fearful, then the devil would definitely attack you knowing that you're fearful, that you're vulnerable, that you're weak.

And the reality is most crime in every nation on earth, this is absolutely true everywhere, most crime is committed against fellow criminals and their friends and their associates, people that you hang out with.

Most murders and robberies and crimes, most of them, the majority of them, are people that you hang out with that eventually comes against you because you're hanging out with the wrong people.

People break into the houses when they're your friends. It is your own friend that break into houses. That's actually the truth. That's actually the truth.

People that have come into your house, sit down with you, ate with you, entertained with you, spent time with you, and they saw where you laid your medicine, where you put your drugs, where you put your alcohol.

They saw everything and they saw your weaknesses and your faults and your flaws and they were adding everything up and plotting against you the whole time and then break into your house overnight while you're gone. Most robberies are actually conducted by people you actually know. Most murders are by people you actually know. People you hang out with. If you're not hanging out with the wrong crowd, then your chances of getting robbed or murdered is a lot, a lot lower. A lot lower.

You have to use wisdom. What road to walk on? Which way to travel? What side of the road to walk on? How you walk on that road? How you're dressed when you walk on that road? What time of day or night you walk on that road? Use wisdom. Use intelligence. Think about it. Plan it. But if you walk on the most dangerous road at the most dangerous time of day, you're asking for it. So use wisdom. And as long as you use wisdom and have faith in God and don't look like you're afraid, but walk with courage and don't hang out with the wrong people, then you can survive in the most dangerous city on earth. There's people that have lived in New York City their entire life and are still living. Amen? Every morning when I wake up, alarm clock goes off and it's telling about this person and that person being shot to death in this town and this person robbed and these drug addicts caught sitting in the parking lot just right down the street from me. Right down the street from me. Right here. Within one mile of this house, even a half a mile, even a quarter mile away from this house, another drug addict found right there in the parking lot doing meth and all kinds of drugs and people stealing left and right and people breaking into people's houses and people shooting each other and all kinds of stuff. But I'm not worried about it at all. I'm not even praying about it because I'm not hanging out with those people. Amen? I'm not shaking because I know what side of the road to walk on. I know what roads to walk on, what time to walk in those roads and how to walk without looking like I'm a victim. Amen?

I'll tell you, I would not walk on a very, very, very dangerous road in a very, very, very dangerous neighborhood in flip flops. Because in flip flops you can't run as fast and in flip flops you can't smash their nose and teeth in as well. Amen? Wear some boots. Wear some real shoes. Then you're wearing weapons on your feet. You can run faster and you can smash the heck out of their ears and nose and teeth a whole lot better and more effectively. Amen? I wear flip flops all the time. But if I had to walk somewhere that was really extremely dangerous and I felt I was going to be in danger and I felt like I could possibly be a victim, then I would go prepared. I would change my shoes. Amen? Think about things. Use wisdom. Use your brain.

The title of today's sermon is toughen up buttercup. Toughen up buttercup. What's a buttercup? A buttercup is a person that is too soft. They don't have enough courage. They're not tough enough. Their mentality, their spirit, their soul, their thoughts, just too weak, too soft. We need to toughen up all of us. Amen? We need to toughen up. Not be so easily distressed. Not be so easily worried. Not be so easily concerned. Not be so easily anxious about things. Be more bold, more courageous. Toughen up. Be more manly, more masculine, especially the men. To be more courageous. God called Jeremiah sometime between the ages of 12 and 16 years old and told that young man that I have called you to pluck up and destroy kingdoms and to build kingdoms. To be strong and courageous because I am with you. We're not much different today. We have the same sins in the world, same type of empires and kingdoms. We really do. Nothing has really changed very much and we serve the same God. And everybody that listens to this, you are called for a very, very high calling and are given much responsibility and you're held responsible for what you do with the responsibility that you have been entrusted with.

I do hope and pray that you will pass the test. You do not need a soft, wimpy sermon. You do not need a soft feature. Times are going to get much more difficult. Everywhere is on earth. Much, much, much more difficult. Even before the tribulation even begins is going to get a lot more difficult to have food to eat, to have supplies, to survive, to stay alive, to keep faith. All these different things are going to be more difficult even before the tribulation even starts. We're going to have to toughen up. Toughen up, buttercup. When the times get rough, the tough gets gone. Amen. Alright, brother Jared, you've been thinking about what you're going to say, if you have anything to share.

And let me also, I'm not going to turn there, but I will remind you of 2 Maccabees chapter 7, even though I'm not turning there. But the book of 2 Maccabees 7, you can read later if you've never read it before or maybe you need to read it again. The example of the mother with seven sons and they were tied up and tortured and their arms and legs pulled off from their bodies. And the mother watched each son be tortured and killed and martyred one at a time. But each man never did forsake the Lord and the law of the Lord, the law of that time of God. They didn't forsake their service to the Lord so that they could stay alive or so that they would not have to suffer the pain. But rather they endured to be true to God all the way through the torture, the pain and the killing. And even their mother, watching seven sons die one by one by one. She, at any moment of time, she could have, as most women would have, begged for their lives and told them to just go ahead and forsake God. Just go ahead and break God's law so that you can stay alive because I don't want you to die.

She could have said that but she never did say that.  
But rather she said the opposite. She said stay true to God. Do not sin.  
Even upon death, even upon pain, trials and tribulations, you stay true to God.  
That's what she said in different words to all seven sons and then even herself to be put to death.  
That she did not betray God.  
But today people are betraying God just to keep a job.  
Breaking the Sabbath day just to keep a job. Taking the injections just to keep a job.  
People are too soft, too weak.  
And it's being caused a whole lot by this microwave society where they want everything quick and easy and easy, easy, easy.  
And soft and gentle and never offend anyone.  
They want a preacher that does not step on your toes, that doesn't offend you, that doesn't point out your sins. They want everything easy.

And that's why young men that's 20 and 25 and 30 years old staying at home with their mommy is because they want it easy.  
And they can use every excuse in the book. They think it's God's will and all that bull crap.  
I guarantee you it's not God's will because it goes against God's nature for a 30 year old man to be living with his mommy.  
That goes against God's nature and God detests that. It's not God's will. Amen.  
You boil it down to the truth. They're just too soft, wimpy, afraid to become a man.  
That's what it is. Too afraid to be a man.  
Don't want to try to live on their own, make their own. It's too hard, too hard, not easy, not easy.  
That's the truth. That's what it boils down to. Amen.  
It's not easy enough. It's much easier to stay at home and let mommy and daddy pay the bills.  
That's what it boils down to and that's all it is, nothing else.  
Laziness, complacency, childlessness, immaturity.  
And women feed into that. Mothers feed into that. Amen.  
And that's not a good mother because a good mother would be telling the 30 year old man, get the hell out of my house and grow a pair of balls and be a man.  
That's what a good mother would say.

Chat room is open. Don't know if it's really going to work or not, but chat room is open.  
Brother Jared, you got anything to share?  
The kinds of wars you fight today, the enemy goes around, looks at everyone, writes in his book, is this person a coward or strong? Before the battle even starts. So he'll know who he's actually going to have to fight.  
God is good.  
Okay, let's see. When is new moon coming? Tuesday.  
Okay, I think that came to my mind. Tuesday is new moon, first day of the fifth month.  
So I'll see you Tuesday. Okay?  
I look forward to seeing our brothers and sisters become more bold, stronger in the Lord, more trusting in God, and stronger in faith, growing in their relationship with God, and closer to God. I look forward to seeing all of this develop. Amen.  
Please, let's be active on the new Parrhesia social media network for Christians.  
It's a great tool that God has given us. Let us use it. Let us not waste such a great opportunity.  
Please encourage other people to sign up, to propitiate with us, because it is a great opportunity.  
And we have a lot of groups there. Amen. We have a lot of groups there for people, something for everybody.  
I praise God for it.  
Okay, and I forgot who this person is. Are you ready for him? I forgot who you are.  
It would be nice if maybe you might remind this old man. It's good to see you.  
It's good to see every one of you. Thank you for your forbearance while I'm suffering with me.  
I know I'm a lot to take, but that is what the church needs right now.  
There's some good, hard, tough preaching. Amen.  
So that you can get good, hard, and tough for what's about to come. Amen. Praise Jesus.  
Oh, and I see you Tuesday for the 18th of the month. It will be the first day of the fifth month.  
All of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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