

“Come Clean”
By Chris Ulrich
Sunday, September 10th, 2017

Good to see everybody here this morning. I know we've had prayer relating to what's going on in Florida. How many here—I know Arman, and Ken, I've got a brother down there—How many people here have relatives down there in Florida? So there's a lot of people. There's a lot of people. Definitely a major event. I've seen a lot of things on the Weather Channel and different stations that are covering it. It's historic as far as the size goes, and the scale, and how many people it affects. And it's taken a turn, little bit, towards Tampa and St. Petersburg, and some of that area. And it's definitely gotten our attention. I mean, I know that, maybe not everybody, especially, we're up here, we're pretty far from it. We are affected by some other weather events, is what they call them. Sometimes snow, sometimes cold, sometimes tornadoes, a little bit further to the south, but, like I said, it's definitely got our attention. But, I don't think it always takes a catastrophe or a tragedy of God to get our attention.

Part 1 – There's Such a Thing as Sin

And years ago, before I knew the Lord, I had an experience with God that, that I knew it was God in the fact that it was unforgettable, undeniable. And, there was nothing that ever happened in my life that had happened that was quite like that, nothing that I could compare it to. I realize that we live in a world full of doubters, of second guessers, of nay-sayers, is the expression that is used, and the truth is sometimes we're in that boat, too. But, there are times that we know we cannot be convinced of, otherwise, we just know it's a touch from God. This was one of those experiences, and I know that it was God dealing with me.

And I've shared this before, and I know that it's something that I think about often, but there was a period in my life when I didn't believe in God. And some might think that that's pretty extreme, but in the day and age that we're in these days, it seems that it's almost a little more commonplace, unfortunately. It's not the fact that I was opposed to religion or hearing what God, or any other opinion when it comes to philosophy or theology was; I was pretty much open to hearing all arguments. I just wanted to hear truth; I was looking for answers. I was at a crossroads in my life. And, I had a desire to know and to understand truth, not in the sense of, okay, well, the lights are on in here, or the sun is shining, or the grass is green, we're not talking about the obvious, we're talking about some things that relate a little bit more to: Well, how did we get here? What is our purpose in life? What's my path going to be? Because we look and we see people go through life, and I've thought about this often times, that, when I was born, this was 1968, but I remember in the early 70's, we've got some family up in Maine, and I remember meeting my great-grandfather. And he was quite frail at the time, but he was born in 1888. And, at this point in time, I'm never going to meet anybody again, and neither will anybody here, that was born further back than that. But I've thought about this at times: In his life, if he would have met somebody when he was a young boy, when he was 5 years old, that were the same age, they would have been born in 1808, so we're now talking about almost into the seventeen-hundreds. So we think about the passage of time and it's something that, it relates to all of us, it's something that we're all aware of.

But, to lead up to this experience: This one particular night, it wasn't really anything out of the ordinary, except to say that, I remember thinking that some of the routines of life had become somewhat monotonous. And, I had sort of come to the conclusion that I just didn't want to keep doing the same things, the same activities, or looking around at some of the examples of some of the older

ones around me, I was looking for answers from them, too. How many can relate to that? This was before going into the service. This was the late 80's, so there's a lot of things that have, are pretty much the same; there hasn't been that many traumatic changes, I'd say some of the biggest technological changes are the fact that we now have cell phones, we have internet. But there's still a lot of activities, or things that people do, or ways of accessing information, whether its television, or whether it's radio, or word of mouth, whether it's newspapers, or what have you. But, one of the biggest things that people do is to seek to occupy their time in whatever way that might be, and whatever way that might look. At the time I was still living with my parents. This was just prior, a couple of months before going into the military. But, I did have a job at the time, I'll have you know; I wasn't just sitting around just waiting for them or waiting for my time to go in the service either, and I remember seeking direction in my life.

And again, it was at a crossroads of time. So this one particular night that I was really searching for answers. Again, it had come to a culmination point. And, I realized that these answers in life aren't going to come from being in the military, they're not going to come from college, they aren't going to come from any other routine, or starting a family, or whatever the case might be, but I remember sitting out on the back porch area of our house and this was late February or early March, so this was a little cooler; I had a jacket on, and I remember just thinking that I was kind of troubled. And again, it was the kind of thing where it was like, "I don't want to just go watch television, I don't want to just read something, I don't want to go just driving around just for the sake of killing time." But I remember this experience that, again, that I'm sharing, and I know I'm building up to it because I believe God speaks to us, and I believe He speaks to us in ways that are completely undeniable and completely unforgettable. And it was in just a very short period of time that God spoke to me and, again, like I had said, I had become an atheist at that point in my life. And, so, an experience with God was somewhat foreign, but I remember when God dealt with me and I knew that this is God from above. And, I didn't know His name. I didn't know anything more than God said, "God is real. The devil is real. Heaven is real, hell is real. The Bible is true. There is such a thing as sin." And the first part of our message today is there is such a thing as sin. And to me, it was a pretty incredible summary of answers in a very fast experience. This wasn't something that dragged on for hours on end. This was all probably in a period of maybe a few minutes. I know I wasn't a Christian, yet. I knew I had to continue on that path of searching. But, that would happen eventually, if I acknowledged and just started to pray and seek God and find the truth. I'm going to ask Sam Adams, he's going to come up and he's going to read for us, it's going to be from the book of first John, chapter one, five through ten. Because this is relating to...

1 John 1:5-10 *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

Thanks a lot Sam. You look quite a bit different than you did Wednesday night, with the haircut and the sprained wrist. Thank you very much.

So I know some here might say that they already knew about sin. Or, it was something that isn't really that revelatory to you. But I would say that, based on different experiences that we have, it comes to us and it dawns on us in different points in our life. It's not always at some particular point in time. It does vary from person to person; it can be more impactful at certain times for us. For me, at that point in my life, I was nineteen. And, I'm not saying that I'd never heard the term before, or I didn't have a vague idea of an understanding about what it was. But, I would say when God speaks to us—and I want

to share one extension of that point: Our General Pastor, Pastor Paine, who many of us know, here, He shared on a number of occasions that he doesn't take that expression lightly. In other words, he doesn't want to use that expression loosely, to say, every time, well, God spoke to me about this, or God laid it on my heart for this, or God did this, in the sense of understanding that that's a very serious matter. We don't want to just take the word of God lightly, or when God speaks to us so lightly. Then it's a matter of, Well, God told me to lift up this water. God told me to get a Kleen-ex." I mean, we're talking about factors that have to do with our soul, that have to do with doctrine, and that have to do with the serious matters in life. But, those of us who know God and have been born again by being baptized in his name, it's no mystery that sin's a real thing. That is something that we learn early on. And for a lot of us, it's probably something we learned, just before we get baptized. Maybe a lot earlier in life. I would say it's not something that you've learned far after getting baptized, because we're going to get into something a little bit later talking about repentance, but knowing that sin is real and it's always going to be real is important, and it's key to our overcoming it. We build on a foundation, that's the Bible, we continue to grow in God as life goes on, but we're all still in this world and when the good feelings, and the euphoria of our baptism, or our salvation wear off, and it certainly will, we're left dealing with the corruption of this world. Our eyes are opened, all things are become new. We then understand there is corruption in the world. And I'm going to ask everybody to turn with me to Second Peter, chapter one, verses one through four. And I know who I'm speaking with here, but, I'd still be hesitant to ask if anybody thought the world was corrupt? In other words, if you think that it's not corrupt, I would beg to differ, and suffice it to say there are Scriptures to back up that claim. So, from the Book of Second Peter, one, one through four:

2 Peter 1:1-4 *Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Parish made a statement last week, that, he was saying that the world doesn't want any kind of sanctification. And I couldn't agree with that more. There's a lot of corruption in the world and, unfortunately, it seems to be worsening. You look at crime statistics, you look at the epidemics of venereal diseases and illicit drug usage, and I'm talking about just here in the United States. And it's sad, it's tragic, it's unfortunate. I want to share a quick story. This was probably about a year and a half ago. We'd had our conference down in Norfolk, Virginia. There's a guy down there—a lot of us know Jim Bailey. So, he's a biker and he certainly looks the part, and a lot of us have seen that. He's got a big beard, now, and I keep telling him to shave it off, but he's reluctant, so, "Okay, we're not going to force you to, Jim. But you do look like Santa Claus." So, anyway, he knows that. So, anyway, he was telling me, while we were down there, that he has a couple of Harley Davidsons. There was a guy—this is down to Norfolk, Virginia—so, he said, "I found a couple of parts on a bike I was looking for out in Virginia Beach," which is maybe a town over. So he said, "Yeah, I went out there to look the guy up. Agreed upon a time to meet up." And, so, he went out there, and he said the guy had a really nice house and garage and all kinds of maintenance and upkeep type equipment. So they talked a little bit about the bikes and what he was looking for. And, Jim, like a lot of us do. when we get the opportunities, and Parrish, I appreciate you shared about somebody in the furniture store. Sometimes, it might seem to be random, but I would venture to say it is by no accident that God brings us in the paths of different people. So, anyway, Jim said that he had just mentioned about, "Well, hey, I belong to a church here in Norfolk and

its relatively close by.” And, when Jim told me this guy's reaction, and I wasn't even there, but the impact that it left with me was, it really set me back, because, it was such a hateful reaction, not towards Jim, just towards the presence of God. He said the guy just started, “I don't believe in that God, and this and that. I don't want to talk about Jesus!” and it was almost violent, to the point where Jim just felt like he had to kind of ease back a little bit. Not that it seemed like he was going to start a fight or anything. But we're talking about living in an evil world, you look at the Book of Genesis and prior to the flood, and that's something we believe; it doesn't matter whether the world believes it or not. It's a real event. It actually happened. How much more proof do people need? But the fact remains that in the Book of Genesis, prior to the flood, it said violence filled the whole earth. And because of that, and because the thoughts of people were only evil continually—you can look that up, but it's in the Book of Genesis, that God looked, and saw Noah was a righteous man and the Bible says Noah found grace in the eyes of God, and He told him to build an ark (Genesis 6:8-13). So, we're talking about what we're facing here. We're talking about the world around us. And, I know that mentioning this first point, this first part of the message today: there is such a thing as sin. We're starting to get to places where even the existence of sin is being questioned. And, no doubt it's a position that people take in order to clear their conscience. Because, if their declaration is, “Well, there is no such thing as sin; it doesn't exist. I can live however I want. I can act however I want.” Because, after all, if we challenge the notion that sin even exists—and there is no definition for it other than in biblical terms—you're basically throwing the Bible out the window, and you're overturning the structure of the society that's built on moral and ethical behavior. So, at that point, you have decadence, you have anarchy, you have absolute mayhem. And, there is no definition for right and wrong anymore.

Myself and Ed Howes were at this place down in Kentucky a couple of summers ago, it's called the Creation Museum. And, interestingly enough, they built a replica of the entire ark, to full scale, that, at that point in time, they were actually under construction. But, anyway, there were some different displays throughout the museum, and it was very well done, they were tastefully done, they were respectfully done. But, we were walking through, and I know we're not in England. I know there's influences of different countries all around the world to other countries. But, what really caught my attention, there was a plaque that talked about, how in England, the decline in church attendance has become so severe, I think it was in twenty or thirty years, they said that only one out of two hundred people will be attending church, within that short a period of time. So, I mean we look around, you see either empty churches or you see people out doing whatever. Sunday—I mean, when I go visit my folks back in Massachusetts, there's so many people their age, which is 70's or 60's that just don't go to church at all. I mean absolutely, not at all. Some of them believe in God, some of them question it, some of them dispute it. And I've got to wonder, sometimes, “Well, what standard are you going by? Or what's your reasoning behind that?” Because, there's parts of the country which are still referred to as the Bible Belt, but, that's happening in those places, too. But, I'm here to say that whether anybody likes it or not, but I'm not saying this group, but I am saying there is such a thing as sin. And when we're faced with that, or we're faced with people that aren't reasonable or aren't hearing it, it's a matter of standing up, and realizing okay, not calling out them, but, realizing this is the reason why we are living the way we do. This is the sanctification and the reason why we are living the way we do. Not to be an offense to anybody else, although they might interpret it that way. It's a matter of saving our soul. It's a matter of saving the soul, but I hope I haven't discouraged anybody today, because there is a remedy.

Part 2 – Come Clean

The Bible says in Proverbs—you don't have to turn to it, but—Proverbs twenty-four sixteen:

Proverbs 24:16 *For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.*

That might seem like it's a Scripture that's a little bit out of place for part two, but getting back on our feet is part of coming clean. And that just so happens to be the title of the sermon today. Not Mr. Clean, but it is, "Come Clean." And I know that the word repentance isn't actually mentioned in that verse. But Romans three twenty-three, it says that:

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

So it's not just everyone else. And there's comfort in knowing these verses. But I would say there's also some uneasiness, too. Comfort in the fact that we know everybody else is doing it. I'm sorry, comfort in the fact that we know that there is a remedy. And I would say that the uneasiness is knowing that God doesn't want us to sin. So we have to look at it from the standpoint that it happens, but it's a matter of getting back on our feet, about rising up again, and not falling into mischief, and not continuing down that path. Repent and come clean. We're talking about sanctification. And, one thing about sanctification: We're not going to have repentance and salvation without sanctification. Its just not going to happen. If we don't make an effort, and I'm talking about, at times, about prior to coming to the truth, or, I'm talking, it could be after we're baptized, or many years after we've been baptized. I'm going ask Ed Kretzer, if he would come, he's going to read from the book of Revelation, chapter two, verses one through five. And, it is a matter of understanding that there is a remedy, because it is a matter of, we can't tap dance around the Word of God. Like it talks about the Old Testament about speaking smooth things or prophesying lies, we have to come clean. We have to acknowledge the whole Word of God and understand what God has for us. Ed, go ahead, please.

Revelation 2:1-5 *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

Thanks, Ed. So if we really want to get technical about our approach to the Word of God, I believe we could probably justify our way out of just about anything. "Oh, this letter was written to the church of Ephesus, it's not written to me. It was written to a church a couple of thousand years ago, and it has nothing to do with my life. Or this parable that Christ spoke, well, it doesn't really apply to the modern world. It doesn't even—I mean, think about the type of terms that he used. Or the Ten Commandments. Those are outdated. They are not really applicable to this day and age, because there are so many other laws that have superseded them. We've got so many laws on the books that talk about parking or whatever or even laws that have to do with behavior that nullifies the Ten Commandments." I don't agree with that.

And this is what I'm talking about: That is not the approach I want to take, and every time God highlights something, I want to make sure to take it seriously. And we're not talking about where we don't have the joy in God, to where we're constantly feeling as though were stifled. Because that's not what God wants, either. There is a joy in God. And it does go hand in hand with sanctification as well, and that's not part of my notes today, but there has to be a seriousness, but there also has to be a joy in

God. There has to be a lot about liking to live this kind of life. I do. I know it may seem a little bit odd, but I look back at my life and I think, the way the human mind works, I don't know how many thoughts could go through somebody's mind in the course of a day, but I would venture to say millions and millions and millions and millions. So our mind can race from topic to topic, time to time. This is not a dream of God, but I'll share this, though, last night, in a dream, there was just three people that I've known at different times that were sitting there talking, one was somebody that I work with, one was the person that I knew from twenty years ago, and one was somebody that I knew from fifty years ago. So what causes it? Who knows? it's not important. What I'm saying is the way our mind works, and the way our mind can race, and the way our mind can formulate dreams, or different things throughout the course of a day. We're talking about looking back and a lot of times reflecting on what's happened in our life. And these different things: we read an article, or we see a movie, or hear somebody say something that reminds us of another time. And I would have to say that I look back at my time—I was talking to Rob Severance a couple of days ago and we were talking about some different times early on in the ministry. And we kind of came to some conclusions, different times in our lives, but I would say that there was one particular year, I will tell you the year, it was 1995. That wasn't the year I got baptized. I think we go through different struggles. We establish a foundation in God. We establish a certain degree of confidence and certainty. And I told him, I said, every year since then—I'm not saying there hasn't been setbacks or deaths in the family or things like that. Every year has been a good year, every year! Now, what I'm saying, the reason I'm saying that, is not to say, "Well, it's always up and down. Human emotion is up and down." And I'm not saying that I didn't have good years prior to that, either. But we're talking about a legacy, we're talking about all those years I've been a Christian; I actually got baptized in 1988. So did I have good years after that? Sure I did. But my point is we reflect back and if my fondness is for the time before I became a Christian, there is a problem. And, I'm not saying I didn't have some good years then, either. I'm just saying I look back and I could say, again, these aren't part of my notes, I'm just sharing some things. There have been some great, great things in my life and God, I personally believe. But that has to be the approach and that has to be the perspective that each person has to decide on their own. It's not like saying, "Oh, Malcolm, you did, come on, this was a good year," or, "This was a bad year." or whatever that decision that person has to decide in their heart. You know what, we look back we summarize that time. But I want to go back to the Book of Revelation, here, the Church of Ephesus. Because I'd venture to say that these people here were at different stages of their lives. Some newly baptized, some fairly well along, some probably nearing the end of their journey, much like the church that we have right now. The key to this passage is God is giving us/them another chance, and, it's up to us/them to take correction from God seriously. Repentance isn't something that we do just once or before we get baptized, it's an ongoing process. And, it's something that God will bless us, and it is part of sanctification. And this brings us to our last passage. It's a little lengthy. I'm going to read through it, I'm going to read through it kind of quickly. But it gives us a snapshot view of what it's like to be blessed in God. And I realize it's Old Testament. So, the terminology corresponds a lot to farming. I mean, as I'm reading through it, you're going to kind of hear some of the terms that relate to farming, and the way of life that was back then, but the message is timeless. Let me say that again: the message is timeless. And really, more than anything, this is about what God is going to do with our life when we come clean. I'm going, ask you to turn with me to the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter eight, verses one through fourteen. Probably one of the greatest chapters I've ever read, and, what's interesting about this—because we're not going to read about the part further down—but it talks about, it's a dual hand. It talks about the blessings of God, and then it talks about the cursing of God if we don't listen to God. But I'm going to focus on the first part, up to fourteen.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 *And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. [So again, there's sort of farming references there, but again, this is a timeless message.] Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. [Here's a verse I really want to focus on:] The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers to give thee. The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*

I get that we have battles to fight, and challenges that are more difficult than we bargained for, and I get this life isn't always easy, and things don't always go as planned, or as we hoped they would, but are we coming clean before God today? And, not just today, but every day. There's greater benefits to coming clean before God than we could ever imagine or even explain. Peace, joy, love, happiness, sobriety, the friends that we have, the list goes on. To be able to walk and to know that we haven't wronged people, and if we do we ask for forgiveness. But it's an upright, and honest, and we talked about righteousness, righteousness is what I seek for. Holiness, I thought about that song as we were listening early on. Those aren't just subliminal messages just to seep into our minds and well, that sounds pretty good. That sounds like something that I'll maybe get to eventually. We can get to it now. Like you said, Malcolm, today is the day of salvation. It could be a day like any other day. And, it's something that God wants for people to live right. And He's given us the blueprint, He's given us his commandments and His commandments are not grievous. It's got it's challenges, but I like that verse in Matthew eleven where it talks about, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. My yoke is easy and My burden is light." I guarantee you that the yoke and the burden and the things that people carry outside of God is much heavier, much heavier. And it may not always seem that way; it may look like they are just coasting through life, they've got it made, they've got a piece of cake, oh, they're privileged, whatever way people want to look at it. I would say, in Christ, it is the best life. Again, it's not easy, but it can be done. And, God protects us, and God provides for us. And, we'll have a blessed life, we'll have a trail of victories to prove it. I just talked about the year where I feel like God really change some things for the better. And, again, it wasn't like it was such an ultimate challenge or difficulty prior to that, it's just I look back at that as sort of a turning point in my life. And, I don't know, I'm not asking for ultimate temptation, or trials, or difficulties, or to lose my job, or for my house to burn down. I mean, I'm not. This isn't the kind of thing where we acknowledge and say, thank God, I mean, I was driving a couple of days ago, this is just a quick thing. I'm gonna be closing here just

momentarily. How many has ever had their windshield cracked by a rock or pebble or anything? a lot of people. So I'm driving the other day up to the Bible study Wednesday night. And I'm going up Sheridan Road by Bowen Park, I think it is, you go down and then up. So I'm just driving along and all a sudden, boom! I mean something hits my windshield hard, and I'm like thinking it wasn't a pebble. It wasn't like, "dink," it was like, "Crack!" I'm like, "Oh, my God," I'm like, and I'm looking at it, sort of looking, and trying to keep my eyes on the road. And, I keep looking and I'm like, "It didn't crack it." I'm like, "Thank God." I could say, "Well, thank you car manufacturer for putting in good glass," but I would say thank God. Because as much as it could have been a rock like that, it could have been a boulder or something else, you know? You just never know, and, I mean, it's worth thanking God, each day of our life for that trail of victories and again, it might be, "That's no victory," to me it is. My deductible is, I don't know 250, 500? I don't even know truthfully, but I'm thinking as soon as that hit, "What's my deductible?" And again, that's how our mind races. But then I'm like, oh, you know, so for me to just blow it off afterwards, "Well, forget it, who cares?" Oh, great, something might happen, something might not. But I'm gonna close, and God protects us and provides for us, if we listen, if we hearken diligently to the voice of God and keep His commandments then we're going to have a greater life than we could possibly have had on our own. Do you believe that? Thank you.