

**“Jesus Christ, All in All.
Loving God with All”
By Brother Andy Giebler
Sunday, October 30th, 2016**

Amen. Thank you. You may be seated. I'll tell you what, it's kind of a scary thing to be up here, and we hear that a lot from people who stand behind this podium, but, it's even a fearful thing, because I know why I'm here. And, I didn't put myself here. I don't boast in that; I don't do anything to lift myself up, but I know that there's a responsibility. And, it's a wonderful thing to see people learn and grow. And, to work with Parrish—and he shared his kind words—and as we've grown together. We're taking, on our theme this month, Jesus Christ, our all in all, and I want to sub-topic this, “Loving God with All.” And, I see people with a zeal for God, and it's an awesome thing. And, this isn't just a, “Say something about Parrish because he said something about me,” but, I know he's got a—something that I saw since he's been gone, sharing with his family. He left to go perform a wedding for his nephew, but, yet, he went for much more than that. And, I see people with a zeal and a fire for God, that they're putting that first. That there is something that says, “I'm going to go share the Gospel, no matter what.” And I know Parrish's background; I know Parrish, as a Muslim, was one that was not always preaching the Gospel of Christ, but, his zeal for the Gospel is much more... He had a physical thing, an ideological thing, to take and to tear down Christians. I don't boast on that, and neither does Parrish. But, when I see people that have a zeal that's so far beyond any religious ideology, more than just a religious zeal, but a zeal that says, “Hey, I've got something. I've got something that's worth sharing, I've got something that's worth studying, I've got something that's worth keeping my life pure and unspotted from fore the world. That's Jesus Christ, all in all. That's something that—I never wanted to sit in a church where it's just church. But, it's a blessing to see people, people that call me, text me, “Hey, I want to share with you this...” “I just shared with somebody,” “I just ministered to somebody,” and that's not religion; that's ministry. That's godliness; that's putting God first. That's putting God first when someone would rather go have a cheeseburger, and sit down and stare a wall for a while, and, just enjoy their food, and nothing else. Sit in front of a TV, or just enjoy some sleep. When God awakes—I've heard stories of people, God awakened them in the middle of the night, “Go share with somebody,” and somebody as there that needed ministering to, at that crazy hour of the morning.

Talking about Jesus Christ, all in all, and putting God first in everything. We look at Paul, and Paul taught—he taught a lot of things, but, one of the simple things was, the Gospel. What's this Gospel all about? That Jesus died, that He rose again, that He was a perfect sacrifice, and He's coming back for us, and that we can be born again. Yeah, he taught a lot of different things, but, that, in a nutshell, “Keep the Gospel pure. Keep the Gospel pure.” And, that may seem like a simple thing, but, when we look at the world today, we look at where we're at, there's a whole lot of things going on. People get up, they go to church, they have a form of godliness—and I want to be careful to say that could be any of us, even me, sitting here in this room. I'm not talking about people in other churches, I'm just talking about people in general. It's just something that we have to be careful for, because this Gospel is too precious, and eternity is something well worth fighting for. And, it's a possibility, we could have this religion, but, you know, we could do the right things, and, say, “God forgive me,” and do this right, and do that right, but, yet, never be truly born again, but never truly resting in the Grace of God. Because, to be resting in the Grace of God, that means we're changed, that means we have repented, that means we have turned around and gone a different direction. And that's where Paul preached—it was just so simple—the death, burial, and resurrection, but, there's so much more than that: The fact that we have a God to rely on. One of the things that Jesus said, before He ascended, he said, **“I will not leave you comfortless. I will**

come to you.” We have—when we come to the guy, when we’re born again, that circumcision made without hands, we take on Christ. We don’t just take on a church name. We don’t get baptized in the name of a church. We don’t get baptized for a membership to a church. That’s your—mine—conviction. Your commitment to God. That’s your birth; you’re being born into Christ. That’s the beginning of Jesus Christ, your all in all. But, it goes so much more than that. You know, we look at Jesus Christ, how do I make Him my all in all, every day? You know, we look at what’s going on in the world. The biggest thing going on right now, outside of the World Series, we’ve got elections coming up, we’ve got wars and rumors of wars, we’ve got holidays: we’ve got Halloween, we’ve got Thanksgiving, we’ve got Christmas. How do I put God first in all of that?

I want to take a side-note in our election. People say, “How do we put God first, there?” I want to go there, because I hear a lot of people, and I included—I can get involved in a political conversation, but, am I putting God first in that political conversation? There’s nothing wrong with sharing your views, sharing your values, sharing your understanding of what’s going on, but, putting God first—this is still a side-note; I haven’t gotten into my notes, yet, here. This is just something I’m really sensitive on, because what if we’re so—I say candidate ‘B’ is the one I can’t stand, and candidate ‘A’ I the one I want to vote for, and I want to talk this one down, and this one up, and I offend someone, just because I want to prove I’m right about a political candidate. There’s a time to be right about things. There’s a time to say, “This is the way things are.” But, if I’m putting God first, I’m tempering that conversation in a way that respects that individual. The fact is that my first and foremost thing is not to worry about who’s elected; it’s to worry about who’s the God of my life, and share the Gospel with somebody, and, if I’m so into this political conversation that I can’t see I’m offending them, then they’re going to walk away from me, and maybe never want to have a word with me again, because I’ve offended them over politics. There are some people who are way more into politics than I am, and get way more personal with it than I do, so, if I show up, and throw out one flippant comment—and that could go beyond politics, but that seems to be the hot topic. And, while we’re on the topic, there’s two things we can do, which I think are really important. One is to put your ballot in the box, and the other one is much more important, that’s our prayers. That’s putting this before the throne of God. So, enough with the election and politics.

You know, we’ve got all these other things going on, our holidays, things that we do, putting God first in all of those things. Halloween’s a big one. How do I put God first when it’s Halloween? But, there’s a way of doing things. You can still celebrate something your kids like, and do it godly. Not celebrating *their* holiday, I mean, mostly what the kids want is to dress up as something cool and have some candy. And I’m not going to stand up here and tell you exactly how to do that, but, I know if you pray about it, and put God first, there’s a Scripture that says, “If you celebrate a day, celebrate it unto the Lord. If you celebrate a day not, celebrate it not unto the Lord.” (Romans 14:5-6) If you’re going to celebrate something, celebrate it unto God. Let there be a conviction that, “This is how I’m going to do this, and I’m going to lift up God in this.”

I’m going to read a Scripture that Chris Ulrich used last Sunday; I want to highlight a couple of things in it.

Acts 17:22 *Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.*

And, here, ‘superstitious,’ he’s talking about religious.

Acts 17:23-29 *For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all*

life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

First of all, I want to highlight, "...in Him we dwell..." and he's there, if haply we would seek after Him. And he set bounds for nations. And we talk about, "What about all these nations where Jesus has never been preached?" He said, 'haply,' he said He's there, if they seek after Him. God's not bound by nations, by borders, by languages. If I'm seeking God in a country that doesn't teach it, and I'm seeking Him, God's going to show Himself. God's going to show His truth in some way, shape or form; He's not bound by that. And that's the beauty of knowing that wherever you're at, God will show Himself. He will show His Truth to you.

But, I want to go back to the first part in this. It says, "In all things, you are too superstitious." They had an inscription, "To the unknown god." It was their religion; they had to worship something. They didn't even know what they were worshipping. They figured, "Well, we've got this god, and this god; let's put this to the unknown god, just in case. We might miss out on something, here." And, sometimes, in a religious state, we can be that way. I know, for me, sometimes I'll get in the middle of a task, or something, maybe you can relate, "I can't figure this out. God help me, God help me out." I'm sitting here writing this bit of computer code for something at work, and I make my changes, and hit the button, "Ah, it didn't work." Make my changes, "God, make this work," hit the button; it didn't work. Make some more changes, "God, make this work." The boss is over my shoulder, and it's quitting time, and they want to do something; hit the button—it still doesn't work. Do it again. Finally it works. So, do we think God didn't hear me the first ten times I asked? Or, is it, maybe, just the tenth time is just when I got it right? I'm not one to deny that God's power is there, or to take any glory from God, never. But, I know God created us, these amazing creatures. He gave us minds to do things, and, if I can write a piece of computer code to control this big piece of equipment, I'm not taking any glory in that. God gave me the brain to do it; God gave me the ability to do it. God gave me an ability to learn it; he gave me the opportunity. But, sometimes, we get in this, where it's, you know, a superstition. "Step on a crack; break your mother's back." Little things like that we learned as kids, and, now, all of the sudden, kids are walking around cracks on the sidewalk because they're worried about it. And, sometimes, our prayers can be just as superstitious: "To the unknown god. I better throw this out there, just in case." But, God's the God of my life when I woke up this morning, and when I lay my head down, when I take time to seek Him. We're talking Jesus Christ, our all in all. We're talking about the in-dwelling of the Holy Ghost, in a relationship. It's one thing, "Oh, God, I'm in a spot; I need some help, here," and, it's another to have a relationship with Him, to have the confidence that God is going to bless you, no matter what. I don't want to muddy the waters with the superstition, but, I want to make sure that, even for me, that's it's not just religion, it's not just something that I do, but, it's a relationship with my Jesus, that He is my all in all.

I know Parrish talked a few months ago about the Ark of the Covenant. You look at Israel, King Saul; you look at the account of the last battle they went into before they lost the Ark of the Covenant to the Philistines. They had a small battle, and the Philistines came in and wiped about a thousand of them out. It doesn't say anything in that passage, in Samuel, that says they went and sought God. No, they said, "Go get the Ark. Go get my big shiny box that has power that's going to win my battle for me." They didn't seek God, and they lost it. There's still power of God, but they didn't have it. They weren't seeking God; they weren't living after it. They didn't have the power in their life, and they went into battle, and I believe the number was thirty-thousand that were lost.

And then, the Philistines took that Ark, and they put it in their camp. It wasn't good for them. They had something; they had this power in their camp as well. They weren't serving God; they just had the big shiny box. They put it before their god. Come back the next morning, and that god's face down in front of the Ark. They put it back up. Come back the next morning, and it's on its face again, only, this time, its arms and legs are broken off. They didn't have the power of that God. The power was there, but they weren't tapping into it. The God of Israel wasn't their all in all. And they sent it back. And, it was twenty years before King David brought that Ark out again. And, even at that, King David had to come to the point where, when he first said, "Go with the Ark," he said, "We need to enquire of the Ark," but then he enquired of God. And God showed him, "This is how you're going to win this battle. You just stand and watch, and I'm going to take care of this." But it wasn't until he sought God. It wasn't seeking the Ark; it was seeking God. And I want to kind of make it a point that, seeking God, here, make this personal in lives today: Seeking God. We seek our Bible, we seek our religious leaders, our pastors, our elders, our teachers, and, even that can be religious. Because, if I go seek my pastor's advice, if I go seek an elder's advice, and I haven't sought God, I may get something, something that's right, he's going to give me something that's good for me, but, if I haven't sought God, what good is that? I may not even understand. And, shame on me if my pastor looks at me, "Have you sought God on this?" If he just stops me in my tracks, and says—and you know what? There's been times when it's been that way; I haven't sought God, and I'll go ask my pastor about something, and, he'll say "You need to pray about this." And that's kind of got to be a red flag, right there. I didn't do my due diligence first. Some people say, "Let me go consult my Bible." And you should, but you need to seek God first. You need to ask God to show you something in His Word. There are men and women who have read that Book cover to cover, throughout the ages, who don't know who God is. "That they should seek the Lord, that haply they might feel after Him and find Him, though He not be far from every one of us." He's there; Jesus Christ, my all in all.

I've been looking at the scripture in Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*

Not just on a piece of paper, on a tablet of stone, or a piece of parchment, in your heart. So, what does it mean to love God with all of these things? First of all, love. Love isn't a feeling; love is more of an action. Love is something—I love my wife, and my daughter, and my grandchildren in a way that I don't love other people. That's a special kind of love for my family, and that love says I'll do anything for them. We'll just take it to the level of my wife. You can take it to the level of your husband, your wife, your spouse; that's a love that's there that's different from any other. That's a love that says, "I'm willing to do anything. I'm willing to put myself aside. I'm willing to give up things. I'm willing to do things that I wouldn't normally do. I'm willing to stop doing things that I want to do, because I want to put them first. I want to, because I have that love, that desire." And that goes beyond a feeling. I have to admit, husbands, wives, there are time that you spouse may ask you to do something or not do something, and the whole—every fiber of your being says, "I don't want to do that. I want to do this." But, because of your love for them, you do it anyway. And it's not a feeling. And that's the mistake that a lot of people make in our society, today: they get into a relationship, and they don't have the love. You know, that puppy love wears off. But, the love we're talking about for God, here, is just that. It's not an emotional love for God—there's going to be times when we get emotional, shout, sing hallelujah, you know. The Scripture, we read earlier, said, you know, God's praise is not in our hand. God doesn't do that, but, you know, you go to a ball game... I bet some of the people, last night, at Wrigley Stadium were jumping up and down, screaming, and whooping and hollering, and yelling, and raising their hands, and jumping up and down. But they weren't doing that for a show. They weren't saying, "Hey, I'm going to raise my

hands, and shout and scream and look all crazy for a baseball team.” They were doing that because they had joy in their heart because their team won. Because something, in their eyes, something awesome had just happened; that body was just kind of along for the ride. And that’s our worship to God, sometimes. We can get in the altar and raise our hands and, sometimes, we’ve just got to do that to put our flesh in subjection to God. But, when you get to where it’s between you and God, when you break through, when you’ve got that spiritual one-on-one with God, when your hands are up in the air, you don’t care. You’re not worried about it. You’re not raising your hands to show off to anybody else. Your hands are just along for the ride. If you jump up and down, your body’s just along for the ride, because David danced and twirled before God; that’s us before God. It’s not about our body, our flesh. It’s about making Him our all in all. And that’s the point: Sometimes we look and say, “What’s going on over there?” And, when someone’s worshipping, and I realize, “You know what? I’m not where I need to be. I haven’t got that. I want what that is. You know what? When you see that, you know it. It’s not a matter of, “what are you doing, cartwheels over there? What’s going on?” No, you feel that Spirit; you know that, hey, you’re missing out. I know, I’ve been there, and missed out on it. But that’s Jesus Christ, my all in all.

So, it says to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might. So, what is our heart? The Bible talks about how God saw the heart of man, you know, it was wicked, it was evil (Genesis 6:5). And, that was the place they were in, their heart, their affections. The things that they had set their very being upon. They were set to do wicked. And, I’m talking about the part before God destroyed the Earth in a flood. He looked and saw that there was wickedness on the face of the Earth. He saw that their heart was evil, continually; they sought after evil, continually. And, he destroyed every bit of it except for eight people. But the point is, that’s the heart; our emotions, our feelings. And some of us say, “Well, I can’t control those things.” Sure you can. But, it’s when you put your heart and affection on God. This is much more of a spiritual thing. And it’s bringing yourself under subjection to God to be able to control the matters of the heart.

Let’s look at Matthew:

Matthew 6:19-21 *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

You control where your heart goes. A lot of it is where you put your value, your treasure, that’s what you value. Do I treasure my car, my house? Yeah, we’ve got to take care of those things. It’s good to have a car. Winter’s coming, and it’s good to have a house. It’s good to have a job, family. It’s good to have things. It’s good to have money; money answereth all things (Ecclesiastes 10:19), but, the love of money, that’s the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10). And, it says, where your treasure is. Where do you place your value? I’ve got to place some value on my house and my family and all those things, but, is God first? Am I putting my value on the spiritual walk with God? The things that you can’t put a monetary value to, even. You can never put a dollar amount on God, put a price-tag on that God’s worth, what God’s Spirit’s worth. That’s where your value’s got to be. Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven... How do we do that? How do I put treasure in heaven? I haven’t found the slot for that one, yet, you know? The heavenly piggy-bank. You know, the more we seek Him, you know, just in a relationship. The more—with a husband-wife relationship, or even with your children, the more you put into that relationship, there’s a value there. The more you put into spending time with your husband or wife, in meaningful conversation, or with your children, teaching and listening to them, you build something there. And, the more time we spend with God, that’s a relationship that words can’t even—the mind can’t even fathom.

There are things that are hidden, that are mysteries. Chris played a song last week in Japanese. Was there anyone who knew what that was when he played it? Okay, we’ve got one, one or two. Most

of us didn't. Now, there's mysteries in God. There's things that seem to defy understanding, but, for me to sit here and listen to this song in Japanese, that would defy understanding. Why? because I don't know Japanese. And, even more than that, I didn't even know that that's what language it was. And, I grew up in churches that talk about mysteries, and, if something wasn't explainable? "Oh, great is the mystery of Godliness (1 Timothy 3:16). We just can't understand; we've got to wait 'til Heaven." Well, that's like saying, "I can't understand that song, because I don't know what it is." It takes a little effort to find out. If you seek after someone who knows languages, you could find out what that language is. And, when you find out what that language is, you can seek out Japanese, and you can learn it. It is highly possible for the human mind to learn another language. But, until you take the opportunity to learn what you're hearing in the first place, and then take the initiative to learn it, of course it's a mystery. There may be things that God never reveals to us, but, there are things that we have given up on, because, "Well, that's just a mystery." But, yet, we haven't, first of all, said, "God, what is that? I hear this, I don't understand it. God, what is this?" And then, taking the time to seek Him, and to seek God's Word, and to say, "Okay, I'm going to understand this. That's a scripture that I've never understood, and I've asked people, and I just don't get it." But, there's no sense in giving up on it, because God will either show you, "Okay, this isn't for you," or, He's going to give you an answer. I mean, God speaks to us on those terms. Paul had a thorn in the flesh, and he sought Him three times to remove it, but God said, "My Grace is sufficient." At that point, he didn't need to understand it any more; God said, "This is the way it is." But, a lot of us get to that point and give up on it. "I don't know; it's just a thorn in the flesh." Have you sought God over it? Or, have I just given up and said, "Oh, this is my thorn in the flesh," and moved on. Because sometimes those thorns in the flesh can be removed. Or, what we call a thorn in the flesh, sometimes God wants to take it away from us. Sometimes it's something we've put in our own lives, and we need to ask God to show us what it is.

All right, I'm getting off-topic here. I'm starting to meddle.

To love God with all, all your heart. Parrish and I both had something God had dealt with us about, a while back, and that was, "You're not asking for enough." He woke me up at about two in the morning, and He said, "You need to get out of bed." I don't get out of bed at two in the morning very easily. And, so, it's seven o'clock, and the sun's coming up, and I'm having a hard time getting out of that bed. But, I woke up, and God said, "You need to get out of bed; you're going to miss something." And, it was just something simple: "You're not asking for enough." And, on of the Scripture we talked about on this was:

James 4:1-7 *From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud; but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

Purify your hearts. And that's the key. Purify your heart, and God's going to show you things God's going to do things. Keep yourself unspotted from the world. Matters of the heart. So, all this, it's about the heart. For all these things that you have, you want, you lust after, you need this, you want that, but, where's your heart at? Where's my heart at when I ask for something?

Moving on: It said love God with all you soul. Soul, that's our very utmost being, because, beyond this life, this soul is going to live on.

Matthew 16:25-27 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Our soul. If you lose your own soul, what's that reward worth? I'm—what goes into eternity, whether it be Heaven or Hell, that's paying the price for what I let this flesh do. That's eternity, that's to be jealous of, to be guarded. Because, what I do in this life determines where I land for eternity. I'm going to love God with all my heart, because there's one place I want to be, and I don't want to take a chance of winding up somewhere else. I don't want to take the chance of hearing the words, "Depart."

And, love God with all your might. Your might, your strength, your diligence. It's the power that we have. How do I use that for God? I have the power to do a lot of things; I have the strength and the might to do a lot of things. I have strength to get up in the morning and go to work, I have strength in the morning to get up and take care of my physical needs. And, these physical things that I'm doing, am I glorifying God in those? Am I using my strength to glorify God? If I open my mouth, and portray my strength with my words, am I glorifying God with it? Is the profession that I choose glorifying God? Are the things that I do glorifying God? Am I doing it in a way that glorifies God? Am I going higher in my job to glorify God? Sometimes we're in jobs where we've got to stay where we're at. Sometimes God allows us to come up higher in our jobs to be able to be used in different ways. But, am I just being comfortable in the things that I do, the talents? We've heard the parable of the talents, and one was given one talent, and he went and hid it in the ground, and, because he didn't do anything with it, it was taken from him. What am I doing with my strength, with my power? And, sometimes, we think about strength, I look at:

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

It's a balance. Where is my strength? Sometimes, it's just for me, for my own pride, my own strength. But, sometimes, that strength doesn't come from hands. It comes from being strengthened in God. When I take down my pride, when I take down the "Me, me, me," attitude, and say, "Look what I did," and God takes me down, and says, "Okay, I'm going to show you something else." When I am weak, when I let those things be my weakness, as opposed to letting God be strong, because, we have the strength, and, as long as God gives it to us, we should use it for His glory. But, there's a strength that, if I puff myself up, then I'm making myself strong, and not listening to the Spirit of God.

Simply, loving God is a spiritual thing. There's a lot of fleshly, tangible components to it, but, we could both do the same thing in the flesh, and, if I'm not putting God first, and you are, God's going to bless what you did, and God's not going to bless me, because I'm not putting Him first. We could do the exact same thing in the flesh, but where's my heart at? Is my heart towards God? Isaiah talks about how God will direct our mind, and keep us in perfect peace (Isaiah 2:3). It talks about He will direct our paths.

Romans 8:8-10 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

It's spiritual. And, I want to read just a couple more Scriptures, and then I'll be closing. In Galatians 5:21, it talks about the fruits, the things that we see out of the spirit. We talk about being born again, meaning, taking on the Spirit of God. And, we talk about putting God first. Sometimes the flesh just has to lag behind the spirit, but the spirit's got to be first.

Galatians 5:21-23 *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

And, though we are in the flesh, we have an advocate with the Father; Jesus said, “**I will not leave you comfortless: I will come unto you.**” (John 14:18) He’s made a way. And, going back to the simple Gospel that Paul taught: The death of a perfect sacrifice, the resurrection, the ascension, those things. The perfect sacrifice, because all that came together. Because, without that, I have nothing. Without that perfect sacrifice, I’d be out there with the blood of goats and bulls and rams, which could never fully atone my sins. And that’s the sacrifice we live in. That’s the life that we walk in; raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).

Our closing and final Scripture:

Hebrews 4:15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need:*

Amen. Give God a praise.

