



Supernatural Practical Christian Living Part 3

July 20, 2025 Romans 12:9-21

(video 44:19)

Romans chapter 12. Haven't heard that in a week, have ya? Romans chapter 12, we're taking a look at verses 11 through the end of the chapter, verse 21. And as I commented on in my prayer for you all and with you all just now, and as I have said almost every Sunday that we've been looking at this portion of this chapter, we've come to a point where we're making application of some of these wonderful theological truths. And as I said last week and even gave you a scripture verse to support it out of Timothy, a lot of times I'll leave Chuck or Dan and I'll leave Irene or somebody and I'll say, "Hey, while I'm gone, act like Christians." Well, I said it to be a little bit humorous, but you know what, it's actually the truth. Whether in Paul's presence or away from Paul's presence, what did he tell the believers? Adorn the gospel of Christ by behaving as you should, acting like people who know Christ as you do. In other words, live it out. Well, what does it look like, Paul? Here it is right here. 28, seven, nine, however many there are admonitions. And he starts off with the first one and we've looked at the first few. **Let love be without hypocrisy**, we talked about that, verse p. **Abhor what is evil**, we talked about that. **Cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love**. I said that is where it all starts. It is love on steroids. It's agape love, it's a love that seeks the best for the object of its love at all times. And so you say, okay, I get it, they'll know, we're just sang it, we are Christians by our love. How do you do that? He tells you the rest of the verse. **Give preference to one another in honor**. And we talked about that. As a matter of fact, we went over to Philippians 2:3-4, and I told you where you could actually find a scriptural definition of what that actually means. Do nothing from a lowliness of mind, or selfish conceit, or an empty conceit, depending upon the translation, but what? Humble



yourselves, have this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Don't just look out for your own needs, it's okay to look out for your own needs, but look out for the interests of others. That's sort of a free Politan translation, but it gets the point across, okay? That's what it looks like, and we talked about that. Then he goes on and says, and by the way, how do you do that? What's a part of doing that? Well, he says, ***not lagging behind in diligence***. We talked about this. Don't be lazy in your Christian life. You don't retire from the Christian life, and you are to use your giftedness all the way to the end. If you need an example of that, he just went to glory. Talk about using your giftedness to the max, our dear friend John. But don't be lazy in your Christian life. Use that gift package, and then it says, ***fervent in spirit***. We talked about that. Boiling over with excitement. If you can paint your face, remember I said last week, black on one side and red on the other side, and you can say, go Chiefs, and scream like a wild Comanche for the Kansas City Chiefs, or whatever their Indian tribe is, I guarantee you, we should be more excited about eternal things, and that's exactly what he's saying there. Get fired up. You're living the most exciting life there is, and He's absolutely got this thing totally under control, and He says, by My grace, you can walk through and do this, and we explained what that all meant. ***Serving the Lord***.

Now when you do that, when you go all in for Jesus, when you say, okay, I'm on fire, here we go, no holding back, I don't know how many days I have left to serve God, but God, I am all in for You. You tell me to go to the foreign mission field, I'm going. You tell me to change careers into another career, I'm going. You tell me to give the money here, I'm doing it. You tell me to move there, I don't care what it is, if it's for Your glory and You're telling me to do it, I'm all in. You start living a life like that. Yes, you'll know a satisfaction, you'll know a joy, you'll know a comfort, you'll know a peace, you'll know an assurance that you're walking with God like you have never known before, but that is exactly when the attacks will start. That is exactly



when the trouble starts, because I got news for you, the world does not like that. And you'll run into apathy, and you'll run into indifference, and you'll run into your own weaknesses and your own failures, and you'll run into absolute abject hostility. So he says in verse 12, when you do this, the only antidote for all of that is to *rejoice in hope, persevere in tribulation, devoted to prayer*, and we're gonna talk about that.

But I wanted to back up for a second, because you notice he says at the end of verse 11, *...serving the Lord*, that's your goal, that's your life's calling, that's Ephesians 2:10, that's all those good works that He has foreordained beforehand that you live in. There is no secular or sacred, there's no such thing as well, you know, I work in real estate and then I go to church, I'm a Christian, no, you do your real estate to the glory of God. You practice law, you practice medicine, you work at Honeywell, you do it all to the glory of God. It's all worship, **present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service** of worship. Well, where's your body at work? It's at work, that's worship. Where's your body when it's sleeping? It's worshipping, your whole life is to be an attitude of worship, okay?

Now, serving the Lord. Three times in this chapter, it dawned on me, he uses the phrase or the word or some form of the word "to serve", and every time he uses a different Greek word and I was curious about that. In verse 1, present your bodies as a living sacrifice, which is your act or spiritual service of worship. He uses the word *latreia* (G2999) there, it's a verb and it basically is a reverential service of worship. It carries with it the idea of having a reverential awe of what you're doing, recognizing that God is the one in control and it's a worship kind of service. It's a reverential, it's like one commentator said, it's sort of like a priest that brings that animal to the Lord. You're bringing your life to God with an attitude of reverence as a part of your service. Then secondly, in verse 7, he actually talks about the gift, spiritual gift of service and he says, **if service, in his serving**, in other words, use your gift in



servicing, but the word there for service and serving is *diakonia* (G1248), we get the word deacon from it and it carries with it the idea of practical service. It carries with it the idea of: You're gonna do, whether it's the most menial task imaginable, you're gonna do whatever you're called upon to do. You have it with a reverential awe when you serve and even if it's a menial task, you do it with that reverential awe, no matter what it is. But then when he gets to verse 11, they are more of the attitude... when he gets to this one, he really ties it down because in verse 11, he says, serving the Lord, he uses the word *douleuō* (G1398), it comes from the word *doulos* and it means slave or bond servant. And the idea is that we are slaves to Jesus Christ. We have no other master in our life. We serve Him quickly, we serve Him with enthusiasm and excitement, there's a reverential awe in our heart, no task is too small, but guess what? No task is too great, why? Because we're slaves to Jesus Christ. It is a fabulous, fabulous concept. It means total service to Him. Now, like I said, you get that mindset, and by the way, you say, well, I'm not sure I have that mindset, that's where prayer comes in. Ask God to give you that mindset. Be honest, be genuine, be transparent in your communion with God. I heard what John said over the pulpit today, Lord, but you know what? I know in my heart of hearts, I'm not there. I'm just sort of cruising along. I go to church and I try to pray and try to read my bible, but I'm not bringing every thought captive to Christ. I'm not trying to look where I am and what I'm doing. I'm not seeing my job necessarily as a reverential service to You. I don't... fine, repent of it and say, God, give me that insight, give me that heart by Your grace and mercy, show me and assure me not only that I'm your child, let me sense Your good pleasure. Show me, Psalm 86 says, show me a sign of your goodness today that I know that I walk with you. Let me tell you something. You pray that prayer, oh God, show me a sign of your goodness in my life today. You start praying that prayer on a regular basis every day and I guarantee you things will happen in your life where before you probably wouldn't



have thought about it. Somebody will say something, you'll read something, there'll be a comment, somebody at the Circle K will come across your path, somebody at work, your spouse, a child, something will happen and the thought will go through your mind. Wow, is this Your sign that you're showing me today? 99 out of 100 Christians would say, oh, just mere coincidence, but you'll know in your heart of hearts, that is an answer to that prayer. Doesn't happen to me every day. Maybe I don't pray as intently as I should every day, but I will tell you something. It is the most exciting way to live your life.

Now, when you do that, like I said, hard times are gonna come and he says, here is the antidote, a three-portion antidote for the oppositions you will face in ministry and remember, you're all ministers. You all have the ministry of reconciliation. You are all trying to edify and encourage in greater holiness those within the body of Christ. You are all trying to share the gospel of Christ by life and lip with everybody outside the family of God. That's the only reason why you're on the planet breathing right now, okay? And so, he says, when that opposition comes, first of all, ***rejoicing in hope***.

Why is there hope? Well, let's go back, a little review, our biblical definition of hope. By the way, hope is my wife's favorite word in the Bible. Hope is, if you walked up to the front door of our home right now, there's a little stone. You know, you can buy stones with engraved words in them and I forget now where she picked it up, but on vacation somewhere, she's got this stone right there by the door. One word on it, "hope", hope. What is biblical hope? Well, I'm so happy you asked, here it is: *A faith-activated expectation, get this, a faith-activated expectation of the certainty of a future event based upon the promises and character of God as revealed in the scriptures. A faith-activated certainty, excuse me, a faith-activated expectation of the certainty of a future event based on the promises and character of God as revealed in the scripture. You say, well, what's the basis for that? And where does it say that in the*



scripture? Well, start off where I went to this last Monday when I heard of John's passing, Romans 8:28. All things are not good. All things work together for good to them that love the Lord to those who are the called according to his purpose and it's a tremendous basis for hope. I'll give you another one. Ultimately, there's a day of accounting. You're never going to see perfect justice ever done in any venue in this life for the most part. But I guarantee you, there's a day when Almighty God is gonna set every account straight. OJ didn't get away with it. I'm so tired of hearing that. He got away with it. No, he didn't. He didn't get away with anything. But forget OJ, you and I don't either. Nobody does. That can be a daunting thought if you're living your life outside of Christ right now. If you are living your life with known sin in your life right now that you refuse to repent of because the pleasures of sin for a season are just too good to let go of, so you think. Let me tell you something. There is a day of reckoning. But I know Jesus is my Lord and Savior. I'm not gonna go to hell for that. Well, first of all, you're gonna get chastised most likely in this life. But sadly, you're going to forfeit rewards for all eternity. Your prayer life is totally blunted. Don't even waste your time talking to the Lord if you're not gonna repent of that pet sin that you won't let go of. But if you do, if you're willing to do so, He sets all things right. The Bema, 1 Corinthians 5, Romans 5, 2 Corinthians 5, do you not know that there is coming a day when all of us will stand before the judgment seat of Christ? Believers, again, not for heaven or hell. That was determined when you gave your life to Christ. But for the handing out of eternal rewards, the book ends with Jesus saying, behold, I come quickly and I bring with Me your reward. How many of them are you forfeiting today because you will not do it God's way? You know, somebody said, I said it in my own mind, "Can you imagine John MacArthur's entrance into glory?" I gotta believe the apostle Paul was there to shake his hand. John said that Paul was his favorite character, obviously, other than Christ, in the entire scriptures was the apostle Paul. Guess what? Billy



Graham, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul. Wow, what rewards, do you know that you, as a believer in Christ, have the opportunity to earn every bit as much of eternal rewards as they? You say, how could you possibly say that? God ordained your life. God has determined the number of days of your life. You get the exact same seconds in the exact same minute and the exact same number of minutes in the exact same 24-hour days that they get. Now, their life may be longer, their life may be shorter, but the point is the time is all relative. And God metes it out. And all He says is be faithful with what I have given you. You worry about the depth of your ministry, John Politan, and I'll take care of the breadth of it. Well, that's an admonition to every believer in Christ. You worry about the depth of your walk of holiness with God. You worry about the depth and the richness of your obedience to the Word of God. And God will take care of the breadth. Just like Warren Wiersbe said so many years ago, too many Christians think that we're in the manufacturing business. We're not. We're in the distribution business. We're distributors. When heavenly resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God, that's when ministry takes place. Let's go back to my comments about Johnny Mac. Hey, if God plants him in Helena, Montana, he doesn't have world-class Olympians and Larry King live and opera singers and LA Philharmonic and all these people showing up in his church to worship and get to use their natural talents as well as their spiritual gift. God placed him there. And by the way, God can place him there, and if he isn't a faithful steward to the gift he's been given, he doesn't lead hundreds or thousands of people to Christ. There's no "Grace To You", none of that stuff. God will use somebody else to do it. God chose to bless him in a certain way. There is something for you to do that John MacArthur could never do because he's not you any more than we're not him. He can't be where you are. He's never gonna talk to the people you're gonna talk to. He's never gonna work and perform his job duties in front of the people that you are. He's never going to have



the needs fall across his path that are gonna fall across Scott Rogers' path, nor am I, because I'm not Scott, and Scott's not me. And I don't care if you're a custodian in an office building in downtown Phoenix cleaning out toilets for a living. If you're faithful to the cause of Christ, if you're diligent in the work that God has given you to do, if you're walking humbly in righteousness before Almighty God, there's no less eternal rewards for you, my friend. You may earn more eternal rewards than most of the people, all to the glory of God. He gives one man 10 talents, He gives one man five talents, and He gives one man one talent, if you remember the parable of the talents. And the guy with 10 doubled it, the guy with five doubled it, and they both got their reward. And neither one of them made a comment about, well, you know, why'd you only give me five, why'd you give him 10? God knows what you can use. God knows what your abilities are. And He's in control of all of it. What have we said over and over again? The sovereignty of God. He's ordained the good works for you to walk in. God ordained Master's Seminary to start through John's ministry. God ordained Grace Community Church to ultimately one day host Shepherd's Conference. I don't understand how that all plays out in the economy of God, but I know this much. He was simply honoring a man's faithfulness to His own glory. I love, you know, I mentioned this, I think, in my pastor's letter. John referred to himself on more than one occasion (I've heard him say it publicly as well as privately) as "the last man standing". And what he meant by that was that when he got started in ministry in 1969 at Grace Church in the early 70s, the gospel was under attack. And he had the J.I. Packers and the R.C. Sprouls and the James Montgomery Boyces and the John Stots and others standing alongside him, fighting for the purity of the gospel. But over time, some of those men died. And other men that stood with him had moral failures. And others got into theological compromise of all sorts that got stripped away. He literally was, in a public sense, the last man standing. And he was willing to have guys who he considered his friends, guys that were on



the dais with him for years at shepherds' conferences. Vernon, you know what I'm talking about. Who haven't come back to those shepherds' conferences the last six, seven years of John's life because of some theological issues where he felt they were, and rightfully so, I agree with him, were watering down the gospel through this social gospel movement. And I thought to myself, man, that's okay for the MacArthur's of the world. How about Luke 14:26? That wasn't just written for John MacArthur. That was written for you and me. Luke 14, I'll start at verse 25. ***Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He, Christ, turned and said to them,*** here we go, ***"If anyone comes to me,...*** (by the way, you know who's it within anyone? Anyone. That's you.) ***If anyone comes to me and does not,*** here you go, *miseō* (G3404) in the Greek, ***hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot,*** cannot, ***be my disciple."*** Talk about exclusive. ***"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."*** Look at verse 33, ***"So therefore, no one of you can be my disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."*** What's he talking about here? He's talking about being, the word hate, by the way, *Miseō* (G3404), in context, it's a Greek format and a euphemism, and it can best be translated in this context, love less. You have to love your mother and father and your siblings and your children and your job and your possessions and your car and your condo and your house and your degree and your bank account, and you have to love all of them less than you love Jesus Christ. That's what it means to be a bond slave of Christ, and that's what He's talking about there. There are a couple of things I wanted to, well, you gotta love Christ to be his disciple, but how does he define love? John 14:15, ***If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*** 1 Corinthians 15:58 is a great one to write down, memorize it sometime. Because of the resurrection of Christ, because of the new life which you and I have been given in Christ, what does he say? ***Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast,***



immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing, that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. And that's exactly what John was willing to do. He was willing to stand there when all of those other guys got stripped away from him. It's a wonderful, wonderful role model for all of us. MacArthur himself said this: *You know, if we had no hope, it would sure be a bleak world for us to serve and serve and serve and serve, and always seem to be defeated, never able to do all that you should because of your own weakness, and never see the results you want to receive, and not be able to look ahead and say, but someday it'll all be the way it's supposed to be. Someday the light will dawn on the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Someday the labor will be over, and we'll rest from our labors, and we'll enjoy an eternal rest in the presence of Christ.* For John, that day has come. For you and me, we are still to be at the task as long as it is day. And to get it done for Christ.

Persevering in tribulation, why? Because we know the end of the story. We've read the end of the book. We know who wins. And by the way, I think one of the reasons why the Lord keeps that *thlipsis* (G2347), that pressure, that's what tribulation is transliterated, that pressure on, is to drive us to prayer, which he ends this verse with.

By the way, we're to be conformed to the image of Christ, right? I start looking through this list. You know, if you think it through, everything we've looked at on this list in Romans 12, 9-21, and in the verses to come, every one of them is a character quality of the Lord Jesus Christ, or is typified, and or is typified, in His cross, His sacrifice.

What's verse 9 say? ***Love without hypocrisy.*** Well, first of all, did God love? Hey, John 3:16, ***God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten son***, and so forth, right? But was it without hypocrisy? It was a love absolutely based on truth. John 1:14, ***the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten of the***



Father, full of grace and truth. Absolutely based upon truth. God did not ignore our sin. He didn't call us good when we weren't. It's a true love, it's an honest love, it's a love from the heart. Jesus called out the Pharisees on this very point. Matthew 15:7, **You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah the prophet prophesy of you, saying, "THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME."** He loved in truth without hypocrisy.

Well, did he **abhor what is evil**? Well, of course he did. Do you know, his first public act you might say is the miracle at the wedding feast at Cana, but in terms of going to Jerusalem, in terms of announcing Himself to the body politic of Israel in His day, do you know what Jesus' first public act was? He did it twice, like bookends. He did it at the very start of His public ministry, He did it at the very end. Anybody know what it was? Driving out the money changers from the temple. You have made My Father's house a den of robbers and thieves. He literally fashions a whip and drives them out. He abhorred what was evil. The demons even come to Him and said, what have we to do with you, oh son of God? They recognize how much he abhorred evil. They said, can't believe you're around us. You abhor us so much. He loved without hypocrisy, He abhorred evil.

Did He **cling to what** was **[is] good**? Of course He did. The rich young ruler in Matthew 10 comes to him, says, good teacher, stops him immediately. Why do you call Me good? Only God is good. Underscoring the fact, of course, that He was God. What's He say in John 10:14? **I am the good shepherd.** I'm the good shepherd. The good shepherd does what? John 10:11, **...the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.** He clinged to what was good. He was the essence of goodness. God is good.



Romans 12:10, ***Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.*** Was He devoted? ***Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*** You can't get more devoted than that.

Give preference to one another in honor. Did Jesus do that? John 13, hours before the cross, he gets up from dinner, takes off his outer garments, wraps a towel around his waist and washes their feet. You can't imagine... God is going to the cross and He's washing your feet. ***Give preference to one another in honor.*** He's the epitome of such humility.

John 9:4, ***We must work the works of Him who sent Me,*** that's what I keep saying, ***as long as it is day, night is coming when no man can work.*** Was he diligent or was he lazy? You know he was diligent in his service. As a matter of fact, it says later on that the disciples remembered, it says, the zeal that he had for the Lord. He was the epitome of ***not lagging behind in diligence.*** He was the epitome of being ***fervent in spirit,*** the epitome.

Did He ***serve the Lord?*** Hey, (Matt 20:28) ***...the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*** I did not come to do My own will. I do the will of Him who sent Me. He is the epitome of serving Almighty God. Hebrews 10:9, ***"BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO THY WILL, O GOD."***

Rejoicing in hope, good grief, what's it say in Hebrews 12:2? ***...for the joy set before Him endured the cross.*** He rejoiced in the hope, the confident assurance, the faith-activated expectation of the certainty of what? That He'd rise again, atoning for the sinful works of man and that the Father would be glorified.

Here's the next one, verse 12, ***persevering in tribulation.*** Did He persevere in tribulation? What does he do? He goes into the garden, sweating as He was in prayer, great drops of blood.



And what's He say? Oh man, if it's possible, Father, take this thing. If we can do this another way, let's do it another way. Nevertheless, not My will, but Thy will be done. And after three seasons, if you will, in prayer doing that, what's He do? He arises and He goes and he wakes up the disciples who've fallen asleep and he says, come, the evil one is at hand. And it's let us rise to meet him. You've heard me tell you before, it's like a military term, let's go and meet the enemy. He persevered in tribulation. It says in John 13, having loved his disciples, he loved them, *eis* [G1519] *telos*[G5056], E-I-S in the Greek, T-E-L-O-S, to the end. Not just to the end of His earthly life, He loved them perfectly. To the end, completely, persevering in tribulation.

Was He ***devoted to prayer***? He can't go through the gospel. He's always going up into a mountain top. He's always arising early in the morning. He's always sending the multitudes away so he can be involved in prayer.

By the way, I talked about, we're gonna, well, there's a lot going on right now and it says rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer. It says contributing to the needs of the saints. I'll hit this again next week, but I wanna make sure I touch upon it this week as well. One of John MacArthur's gifts that he encouraged me so greatly with. Again, I mentioned it in my tribute to him in my letter. It was so refreshing to see a guy take current events, run them through the lens of scripture, and give you the scriptural perspective, the God-honoring perspective, the Christ-hearted servant approach to all of these things that were happening. And that's why I even mentioned to Mike Fink in the foyer this morning. There's such a loss, I can't get it back. I mean, I can't pick up a phone, I can't send him a text, I can't click on the *Grace To You* website and say, what does John think about this? But in that same spirit, and the reason why I'm doing this is because I heard it for the first, I knew we would start hearing it, and I heard it on a Fox News news clip in the kitchen yesterday morning of our home with a little TV on, quietly, but I've been looking for it for days now.



There's a guy running for the mayorship of the city of New York, an absolute socialist, Marxist, no doubt about it. And you heard this when the social gospel was in vogue, and now you're, and somebody made the comment about, didn't Jesus concern Himself with the poor? And how about Acts 2:44&45? Well, what's Acts 2:44&45 say? Well, it says that the disciples were selling their goods and distributing to them to as many as have need. I just read a verse of scripture a moment ago that would give you the implication that maybe we should sell everything, and maybe we should just hold things in common, and maybe it should be communal living. And then the comment was made, if Jesus was here, he'd have been a socialist. On the authority of the word of God, let me categorically expunge that ignorance from your minds. Under no circumstances, based on the Word of God, would Jesus Christ have been a socialist or a communist. Absolutely not. First of all, the disciples in Acts 2 are selling their goods and distributing to the needs of people voluntarily, as the Spirit led them to do. Ananias and Sapphira, over a few chapters later in Acts, are struck dead by the Holy Spirit, not because they didn't give all of the property to the saints when they sold it, it's because they lied to the Holy Spirit and said they did when they held back some for themselves, and God was purifying His church in that regard. They didn't have to sell the property at all. Socialism and communism is a government-controlled, authoritarian, taking over the sources of production and telling you that you're gonna give it all up and forcing you to live in a certain way. Communism and socialism strikes at the heart of the family unit, being the integral building block of the culture. This concept of let the village, let the community raise your kids, let the public school system raise your kids, transferring their gender choice, quote unquote, without the parents' knowledge, this is all demonic, this is all evil, this is all an attack on the Word of God. (Gen 1:27) **Male and female He created them.** There's a reason for that. God made you, woman, God made you, man, and He designed you, and there is no other you but



you, and it's an affront to the holiness and the wisdom of God to do those things, but back on communism. Have you ever heard of the Eighth Commandment? Thou shalt not steal. You know what that tells me? I'm entitled to have some property that's mine that you can't take. Private property ownership is supported biblically. Second Timothy 6:17-18 is another, and the reason why I'm sharing this with you is that you're gonna hear this foolishness, your friends are gonna bring it up, misguided people are gonna bring it up, and you need to know what the Word of God says. 1 Timothy 6:17 and 18, ***Instruct those who are rich in this present world*** to sell all their goods and give it to the poor? No, it doesn't say that. ***Instruct those who are rich in this present world*** (and that tells me that everybody won't be rich in this present world. But he says ***instruct those who are rich in this present world...***) ***not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.*** If you got a lot, God gave it to you and enabled you to get it. If you don't, God has kept it from you. ***Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, yes, and ready to share,*** yes, but it doesn't say anything about the government taking all your property and forcing you to do it their way. The Bible also encourages people to work diligently. Proverbs 14:23, you're to work diligently and you're to enjoy the fruits of your hard work and labor. Communism and socialism destroy personal incentive and flies in the face of that passage of scripture. Somebody said so well, socialism is absolutely fantastic until you run out of the other guy's money. Jesus said this, and you don't wanna take this out of context, Jesus said the poor you will have with you always. Now that doesn't mean we're not to help out poor people. Doesn't mean we're not to help out the widows and the orphans and all of that, but it is an acknowledgement that the primary goal is not to try to level the playing field materially for everybody on the planet. God does not even distribute spiritual gifts evenly. Think about that. We studied 1 Corinthians 12:11,



remember, but he distributes to each one as the spirit wills. He's given us different proportions and different measures of grace. He doesn't even give out spiritual gifts equally, let alone the equalization of material things in this world. I've already touched upon the parable of all the talents, 10 and five and one and what they did with it. There is so much more, by the way, ancient Rome in Paul's day had a banking system and they lent out money at interest and did all sorts of borrowing of funds for capital enterprises and Jesus didn't come along and say, man, we need to tear this system down. This is horrible. Not at all. As a matter of fact, when it comes to paying taxes, render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's. Don't fall in love with mammon, but he does say, hey, if a man doesn't work, he will not eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10). It just goes on and on and on. I just wanted to give you a few of them because I'm starting to hear it and you're gonna hear more of it and it was a justification for so many aspects of the social gospel and it's gonna be a justification for this person's candidacy and embracing things that are absolutely unbiblical, perhaps, in the largest city in the United States.

Regardless of how that plays out, I can tell you one thing for certainty. He sets one up and He puts another down. Nobody's gonna be the mayor of New York. Nobody's gonna be the mayor of Phoenix. Nobody's gonna be the president of the United States. Nobody's gonna take over Tehran. Nobody's gonna lead Israel. Nobody's gonna lead London or Canada or anyplace else that is outside of the authority and the purview of Almighty God. And yet, He tells you and me to pray about it. He tells you and me to exercise our giftedness. He tells you and me to preach. He tells you and me to vote. He tells you and me all these various things because somehow in God's economy, he's factored all of that in to getting His purposes done.

As Brian comes to lead us into closing him, thank you for letting me take a couple little digressions just because of my love for the late John MacArthur and this passage of scripture



and a couple of things that touched upon it. And Lord willing, before communion service next week, will pick up with some of these truths, especially those two there, about contributing to the needs of the saints. And that's why I got off on this. It doesn't say contributing to the needs of everybody in society, let's all be communists. It says contributing to the needs in the family of God. I wanna talk a little bit more about what that means. And then it also says to ***pursue hospitality***. And we're gonna talk about really what that means as well. They're fabulous, fabulous. I hope you get as much joy out of dissecting each one of these as I do out of sharing it with you.

But let me close this in prayer. Father, thank you again for the patience of your people. Thank you for this time in Your word and allowing me to share so many of the things that You have placed on my heart. Your local body here, Reformed Living Bible Church, are so gracious and so kind, so loving, and quite frankly, so giving. And Lord, I pray that each of us will be convicted as well as encouraged as we go through these practical things of what acting like Christians really looks like, practical Christian living. We thank You for the privilege of talking about it together. We, again, thank You for it in the matchless name of Jesus our Christ, amen and amen.