

## Vintage Jesus 9

### **What makes Jesus superior to other saviors?**

*Lecture*

- Alrighty, welcome to the Vintage Jesus lectures. There's 12 total, this is number nine and so if my math is right, we're 3/4 of the way there. I'll do Q and A at the end. And today's topic is what makes Jesus superior to other saviors. And, oftentimes, Christians will begin with this. Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior? And the question is well what the heck does that mean? And this concept of savior is really a pretty basic one that we use in a lot of different categories and ways and I've got this in your notes, but a savior is someone or something, someone or something that delivers us from a terrible plight. So you look into the future and you anticipate something very painful or awful is going to happen, a savior is a person or thing who gets between you and that problem, rescues you, delivers you, spares you and that's exactly what a savior means. So we have this kind of concept with, for example, police officers. You're in danger, you're in trouble, you call the cops, they come, they get in the middle and you are going to suffer a terrible fate but then they save you from it. Same can be said for those who are in the fire department. House is on fire, you find yourself in a critical situation, you call them, they show up, they get between you and harm's way, they deliver you, maybe even they throw you over their shoulder and carry you out of the burning building. They're functioning as a savior in the capacity of saving you from some plight or harm. Similarly, with soldiers. Let's say there's a people group that are being oppressed and harassed and they're being held by a dictatorship, we send in the good guys to go shoot the bad guys and to set the captives free. All of that is under the auspices of the concept of a savior. And I want to get into Jesus as our Savior but I want you to see that this concept of savior is one that we all have and one that we all use whether or not we use the exact language of savior that's in the Bible. Some of us trust in mythical saviors and these are not real beings but they're sort of beings that we aspire to be like. And so this started in the Ancient Greek world. They didn't actually think that their gods and goddesses like Zeus were actually real living beings. They knew that they were mythical creatures but they sort of use them as like superheroes that they would aspire to or would sort of awaken the imagination. In our day, it's DC and Marvel. We know that, spoiler alert, if you're a comic-con person, they're not real. Just to let you know that they're not real like Aquaman doesn't really live underwater and Spider-Man can't really climb buildings and Superman really doesn't wear a cape and leotard to fly through the air. It's all myth, we know it's myth but what we have, even at some of our great cultural narratives, our blockbuster movies and a lot of our cultural storylines is there someone who's kinda part human and more than human, they've got super human powers. The storyline usually is that some terrible foe or fate is befalling the planet. We're all in peril, we can't rescue or save ourselves so someone comes from another planet, they come inside from the outside and they're human but they have divine power and they deliver us and they're our savior. I'm telling you, that all of the Marvel and DC storylines are basically stolen from the Bible. Jesus the God man beats Aquaman, Spider-Man and Superman altogether. The God man beats them all but there's something in us, even those of us who don't know Jesus that longs for some someone who's like us but greater than us that comes from somewhere else but comes to rescue and deliver us and to fix the mess we've made on the planet. That longing that we have, ultimately, through superheroes is ultimately for a savior. In addition to mythical saviors, there are functional saviors. So in the world of counseling or psychology or therapy, they will talk about people grabbing on to other people or things like functional saviors like a life raft when you're

adrift at sea. And I've got some examples in your notes. Codependent relationships. My life is horrible, I just need to get this person, right? And if they will date me or marry me, then, if they will just be with me, they will save me. How many of you have been in those dating relationships? How many still have PTSD and a nervous eye twitch from those relationships? You're like, "They are really into me," and then you realize, almost like a religion. They will want me to save them, fix their life, never leave them nor forsake them. They just handed me Jesus' job description and they want me to be their Jesus. I'm their codependent savior. This is where unhealthy people will sometimes come together to save each other. In addition, sometimes, our concept of a savior is financial. Now, I would encourage you, save money, have margin but some people, when they look into the future, the one thing that they think will save them is having enough financial margin. As long as I've got this much money in the bank, no matter what happens in the future, this will be my savior. I can pay to fix my problems. In addition, for some people, the functional savior is self-medication. You look into the future, you don't like where you're going, you don't like what is happening and so what you do is you self-medicate. Drugs, alcohol, sex, gambling addiction is a functional savior. Life is very painful, this will save me from the pain by numbing the pain. And the problem is that the bottle, rather, it always lies. It never saves. In addition, every election season, we have someone that we're hoping is gonna be the savior. Who is that? The candidate. Then they literally run on a savior platform. Here's everything wrong with the world, vote for me, I'll fix it. It's all a fake Jesus. Just so you know, elections are fake Jesus. I will set up a kingdom where everyone will be fed, no one will be sick, everyone will get along, there will be peace and it won't cost you anything. They're all lying. They're all lying. How do we know their lying? We keep voting and it never happens. Like the last guy said he was gonna fix it and all he did was raise our taxes. How are you different? I just lied differently. But it's all the same, just different kinds of functional saviors. Different kinds of functional saviors. Oftentimes, in the political realm also, sometimes, we think of a savior as enlightenment. If I just get an education, if I learn more or if I have a spiritual awakening or enlightenment, I will have the tools that I need to fix the problems that I have so that I could save myself and I can resolve the issues in my life. Also, this would include psychological discovery. If I could just get to know myself and my triggers and my traumas and my response patterns and if I can get all of the tests taken so I understand what all of my dysfunctions are and then I could look at the symptoms, then I can start to save myself by managing myself more effectively and then lastly, there's something called the product purchase and almost all advertising is built on some sort of myth of being saved. And so, think about it this way. Next time you're at the grocery store and you're standing in line, there's all these magazines that are usually in the racks and each one of them is presenting someone's view of heaven. Okay? So there's clean house heaven, there's obedient pet heaven, there's clean house, obedient pet, obedient clean husband heaven, there's all these different heavens and each picture is a portrait of someone's view or vision of what it would look like if heaven came to earth for them and then if you pick up the magazine, the whole point is to buy the products to save you from your problems. And so, what marketing and advertising often does, it understands that we have pains and problems in our life and that it seeks to meet that need with a product and we call this the felt needs pitch. And ultimately, we find that all of these are ultimately never able to quite deliver on what they promise. So, some of us, if it's not mythical saviors or functional saviors, then as we have problems and pains in our life, we start to look in lean to the future. Just thinking, if I can just get into the next season of life, life will get better. Life will get better. So when you're a little kid, you think to yourself, well, someday when I'm a bigger kid, life will get

better and then you're a bigger kid and you think as soon as I get my driver's license, then, heaven. I could just drive away from my parents and go do what I want. That would save me from all my problems and then you realize, you've got to pay for gas, you got to pay for insurance so now you got to go get a job. So now, you're single. Okay, as soon as I get a job and then you get a job and you realize jobs kind of stink, that's why they pay you, you won't do it for free and then the government takes a lot of your money so you think, "I need to make more money so I'm gonna go to college and as soon as I get the college, that'll be better." Then you get to college and you realize, it costs a ton of money and now, you're in debt. But your goal, your hope and prayer is I'm gonna graduate so I can what? I get a good job to pay off my debt to get up to zero where I started when I was a kid. My goal is to get up to zero. So then you graduate and you get your job and you go to work and you pay off your debt and you're working on paying off your debt and then you think, "You know what? I'm tired of being lonely. I don't like being lonely. You know what I need? I need a spouse." And so you find someone back to the codependent relationship, then you find someone and you think okay, as soon as I'm married, then my life is gonna be better. All my problems will be solved. That's adorable and then you're married and you realize, we drive each other crazy and we both got debt and we're both codependent. So then your thought is you know what? Life will get better as soon as we have some kids, give us something else to do, then you have the kids, they throw up, they get chicken pox, they poop, they pee, they cost a lot of money, you don't sleep. They do all of this at 3:00 a.m. They never do it on a really organized schedule no matter what you do. So then, you just think, "Okay, you know what? Life will be better as soon as our kids are a little bit older." And now, you've got real trouble because now, the teen years hit and now, they're dating and now, they're atheists and now, they want a driver's license, okay? I'm not prophesying, I'm just pointing out. So, then your thought is you know what? Life will be great As soon as the kids move out. And then they move back. God, geez. But then you feel a little lonely. You reminisce, you like remember the olden days when we had the pitter-patter of little feet. If we could just have some grandkids and then you die. So what happens is- That's funny unless you're the grandparents. So what happens is we turn these life stages into saviors and we're always thinking, "It's bad now but it's gonna be awesome." And then we get there and we're like, "Yeah, it's bad now but it'll be awesome." And it never quite works itself out. This is why people have a midlife crisis. That's why some guy here who's 60 drove here in a Camaro. And if you're that guy, we're glad to have you but now, you know what's happening, you know why you got the Camaro. So then what happens is people say, "You know what? Okay, I tried it. The mythical saviors, they're not really real. The functional saviors didn't really work. The life-stage didn't really come to pass. I'll try religion, I'll try spirituality. Let's see if that works." And so, I've got this in your notes. These are the various ways that world religions and traditions posit or present their form of quote, unquote, salvation. So Buddhism says you can save yourself by ceasing all desire. Buddhism says your passions get you into trouble so stop having them. Confucianism says you can save your yourself through self-education, reflection, self-cultivation and moral living. Hinduism says you could save yourself by detaching yourself and living in your separated ego in unity with the divine life force. You need to separate yourself and live in harmony with all of the cosmic creation and the energy, right? The circle of life, to quote "The Lion King". Islam says you could save yourself but living a life of good deeds according to the Koran. Orthodox Judaism says you can save yourself through repentance, prayer and working hard to obey the Old Testament law. The New Age, the New Spirituality or all the crazies up in Sedona and they are crazy, they are crazy. We're like, "Why did you come here?" "I came here all across the world

'cause when I look at that rock, I just feel connected." I'm like, "Dude, you need Jesus in a big way." If you're gonna die and grab a red rock and that's your hope, I got something better for you, I just do. The New Age says you can save yourself by seeing yourself as the part of the divine oneness that is all of creation and living in harmony with it. And again, that's "The Lion King", the circle of life, that we're all in the circle and the circle of life is the life force that indwells and imbues all people, all places, all things. Daoism says you could save yourself by aligning with the Dao to have peace and harmony in you and around you. Okay, all of those various world religions that tell you their form or fashion salvation, what do they have in common? Who does the saving? I saved me. They all have different ways but they all have the same savior. Through good works, through reincarnation, aligning your karma, obeying the Koran, obeying the... Whatever it is, every one of them says the same thing. If you wanna be saved, you got to save yourself. And this is what distinguishes Christianity from everyone and everything else. Psychology, self-help. You better save yourself, right? Self-love, you wanna be loved, you better love yourself. Esteem, you wanna not have a low self-esteem, you better esteem yourself. It's all the same. It's me, I need to fix it. I am the solution. Now, Christianity says that we are the problem but that we're not the solution. This is where Christians unity is different than every other ideology, religion, spirituality and why the Bible says it's offensive. Because what people like to think is I have a lot of problems but thankfully, I'm the solution. Christianity comes along and says, you are actually your biggest problem. That's very offensive but very insightful. Right? Okay, well if I'm the biggest problem, where's my solution? That's where Jesus comes in. If everyone and everything is the problem, then I'm the solution. If I'm the problem, then I need someone or something else to be the solution. You get it? So this is where the bad news of our sin leads to the good news that sinners have a savior. And so these other things, some of them could serve you. A product could serve you, some psychological understanding or a healthy relationship, all of those things can serve you but none of those things can save you, okay? And I want people to be served but most importantly, people need to be saved. So that leads us to the biblical concept of savior and I'll start in the Old Testament. How did the Old Testament prepare people for one Savior? This is all in your notes. So just in the Book of Isaiah. It was written 700 years before Jesus was born. It talks so much about Jesus. Some call it the fifth gospel. So they'd say Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Isaiah. He's like the gospel of the Old Testament. From chapter 40 to chapter 66, it's all about Jesus as the Suffering Servant. And it says over and over and over that there's only one Savior. And it's God's way of preparing his people for the coming of Jesus. Isaiah 43:11. "I, even I, am the Lord and apart from me," there's what? "There's no Savior." He keeps telling his people, "I'm sending Jesus, there's only one Savior. So don't take anybody else until he gets there and don't pick anyone else alongside of him. It's only Jesus, it's always Jesus. I'm sending my Son as your Savior." Isaiah 55:21. "There is no God apart from me," okay? So God's very clear. There's one God, "a righteous God and Savior." So who's our Savior? God's our Savior. God's our Savior. That means that we have a God-sized problem. If we have a God-sized solution, we must have a God-sized problem. And this is where I don't think that it really is good to tell people about self-help until you first tell them about God's help. I think it's actually a very mean thing to look at somebody and say here's all the things you need to do if you don't first tell them, here's all the things that Jesus has done for you. Once you know all the things that Jesus has done for you, the ways that he has saved you, now, you can work with him to make some corrections in your life but if you take the full burden of life change in salvation and put that on a human being, you're going to crush them because you're giving them the job description of God. If God is our savior and you

expect someone to save themselves, you're expecting them to do the work of God, which is going to crush them. This is why people in other religions or other spiritualities or ideologies, they either end up proud, I saved myself, or depressed, I can't do it. They never lead to joy and they never lead to humility. Only having a Savior can lead to joy. He did a great gift for me. And only having a savior can lead to humility. I didn't save myself. Isaiah 49:26. "All mankind will know that I am the Lord and I am your Savior." Isaiah 60:16. "You will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior." And that Isaiah 62:11, "The Lord has made proclamation to the ends of the earth, your Savior comes, see his reward is with him." So over and over and over. I mean, just here, we're just at the end of one Book of the Old Testament. It's a constant refrain and theme. But ultimately, it means Christianity is built on these two towering truths. There is a problem and there is the solution. I'm the problem, he's the solution, okay? And I'll just say this too. What this is, this is such a blessing to our relationships because if I'm not the problem, then who's the problem? You are. And we now see what this does culturally. Everyone is blaming everyone else for all of their pains, problems and perils. No one is owning responsibility for their own decisions and asking God to save them from themselves. If you don't know that you're the problem and you have a problem, you start blaming your spouse, you start blaming your kids, you start blaming your genetics, you start blaming your upbringing, you stop start blaming everyone and everything and the truth is they may all have some contribution that they have made to it because they're sinners too but you miss the fact that you need a personal savior because you are a personal sinner. And what that means is I'm a sinner, you're a sinner, we both need a savior. It allows some forgiveness for one another and some humility and help one another. So then, that being said, the next question is what does the Bible say or where does the Bible say, rather, that Jesus is our Savior? Jesus is our Savior. Matthew 1:21 talking about the birth of Jesus. This is a great Christmas story. The angel says, "She," speaking to Mary, "will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus." The name Jesus literally means God is my Savior. So when you hear the name Jesus, it literally means savior. It's very clear, God made it very clear who the savior was going to be because he will, what it say? Save people from their sins. We Live in a day when it's very popular to confess everyone else's sins and, or to blame all of the institutions for their sins. Other people have sins, that's true. Institutions have sins because institutions are created and run by people. So people are sinners and the institutions that they make are sinful but we need to be saved from what? Our sins. People need to be saved from their sins. From their sins. You and I, before we can have a full appreciation of being saved by Jesus, need to have a full appreciation that we're sinners before Jesus. Goes on to say Luke 2:11, also the Christmas narrative. "A savior has been born to you." He is Christ. Christ means anointed of the Holy Spirit. Lord here means he is the one all the way back in Isaiah. And they kept saying, "I, the Lord, am your Savior." Well, here he is. His name is Christ and he is the Lord and he is our Savior. Luke 2:28-30. "Simeon," he's a priest, he's a religious leader as they're dedicating Jesus as a young child, "took him," that's Jesus as a child, "in his arms, praise God saying, 'Sovereign Lord, you've promised to now dismiss your servant in peace for eye's have seen your,'" what? Salvation. This is a prophecy over baby Jesus. Simeon's an old guy. He's been serving the Lord for a very long time, the Bible says and God made him a promise that before he died, he would see the Savior. It was a revelation that God gave. And as Mary and Joseph bring baby Jesus up for the dedication, he's holding the baby. He's like, he sees Jesus and he senses the Spirit of God is so strong on the Son of God that he says, "God, I'm ready to go home now. I've seen my Savior." A grown elderly man is able to look at the baby Jesus and recognize that this is his Savior. And then Titus 2:13, the apostle Paul says that Jesus Christ is our great God and

Savior. So that's a clear declaration of two things. Jesus is who? God. What does he do? Save. It's very clear. The Bible is emphatically clear and I've got this in your notes. Some 24 times, the Bible uses Savior. In addition, it'll use words like salvation or saved. When it speaks of Savior, of those 24 times, eight times it's referencing God in general, that God is our Savior, 16 or 2/3 of the occasions, it says that Jesus, it actually names Jesus Christ as our Savior, okay? And so, you need to know that when we talk about God, the reason we use Jesus is because a lot of times, if you just give people the name God, they pour their meaning into it. If you give them Jesus, you're being more specific. So people like, "Do you believe in God?" Yes and his name is Jesus. That's my God. Because if I say God, you could pour any meaning into that container but if I say Jesus, we've now made it very, very clear. So what he does here he says that Jesus is my God and he's my Savior. And I want you to see two things in this. If Jesus is God and it's already used the language of Lord, what that means is he's over us. If he's God or Lord, he's over us. he's the highest authority, he's in charge and if he's Savior, that means he goes before us and he goes through life with us to deliver us. And so we don't need Jesus just to save us on the last day, we need Jesus to save us every day. We don't need Jesus just to save us from all that is bad at the end, we need him to save us from all that is bad in the middle. And so, some people will say, "Well, Jesus saves me from hell and takes me to heaven, why don't I wait till the last minute to get my life to him before I die?" Because there's a lot of horror and pain coming for you in life and it's the earlier you have Jesus and the more he's able to save you from bits and pieces of hell along the way, the better your life is. The better your life is if you know the one who is over as Lord and before you and with you through it as Savior. So that being said, we'll continue to move through the notes, think through your questions but here's the big question. So this is the big question for the night. Is Jesus Christ our only Savior? There's no problem, generally speaking, in the culture and world, to say that Jesus is a Savior. All the conflict happens when you say he is the Savior. If you say that Jesus is one of the many ways, no problem. Jesus is the only way, lots of pushback. How many of you have had this? Some people will say it this way. I'm really glad Jesus works for you but he doesn't work for me, I've got my own path. So, a couple of things here. John 14:6, this is what Jesus says. "I am," and he's quoting here from Exodus 3:14. All the way back in the Old Testament, there was a guy named Moses, he's out in the middle of the wilderness. We're here in the desert in Arizona, he sees this bush. I don't know if it's cactus or saguaro. I don't know what he sees when he sees a bush and the bush starts talking to him. And the bush gives them orders to go to the pharaoh who's the most powerful leader, worshiped as a god, overseeing a political and economic empire. It says, "Hey, my nation of a few million people, they're being held as slaves. go tell the pharaoh to let my people go." Moses has a good question. Who should I say has sent me? Because if you just show up like at the White House and you're like, "Hey, we've got this list of states that all wanna secede from the union." Who said so? There's a very angry plant out in the woods. Like, were you smoking that plant? What was going on? Okay. So Moses has a good question. If I show up and say the plant commands you, probably not gonna get the response that we're hoping for. So God speaks through the burning bush and he says, "Tell him that I am has sent you. I am has sent you." It's a sacred title and name for God. When Jesus says, "I am," he's saying that he was the God who spoke to Moses back in Exodus 3. That he's the God of the Old Testament, the New Testament, that he's the one God who's eternally existing. When he'd used this language I am this, I am that repeatedly in the gospels, they seek to put them to death because he's saying he's the God of Moses. Jesus says, "I am," how many ways? "The way," it's singular and exclusive, "the truth," singular exclusive, "the life," singular and exclusive. "No one comes to the Father except through

me." Is that inclusive or exclusive? Very exclusive. There's one way, his name is Jesus. Say, I disagree with that. Well, there's only one truth so if you disagree with that, you're wrong. Well, I think I'm gonna be fine. No, there's only one life so if you disagree with that, I promise, you're not going to have eternal life. Jesus is tripling down on his declaration of him being the only way. He's the only Savior. Acts 2:14, the sermon in the early church says that salvation is found in who? No one. So there's only one, there's only one Savior. "There is no name under heaven to men by which we must be saved." It talks about salvation and being saved and he says, "There's only one way and there's only one name through which salvation comes." And in context, no shock, who is it? It's Jesus. It's Jesus. I mean, this is the preaching that launches Christianity and sustains it. So anytime somebody gets up and they're like, "I think Jesus is a great moral example." Fantastic but is he the Savior? Well, I believe he's a Savior. No, is he the Savior? Right? And then 1 Timothy 2:5-6, the apostle Paul says, "For there is one God," very exclusive. There's not a whole bunch of gods. There are demonic counterfeit beings that will parade in poses gods and they empower various religions. So I have no doubt that in other religions, there's miracles, there's healings, there's supernatural paranormal activity. It's all counterfeit and demonic because God is Creator and Satan is counterfeiter. And so he's gonna try and mimic and in some ways, mock everything God does. So in Egypt, back to that story of Moses in Egypt, the pharaoh and all of his demonic leaders, they have counterfeit miracles, counterfeit signs and wonders, supernatural things happen but it's not from the one true God, it's from the counterfeit demonic gods. So when I say there's one God, I'm not saying that there's one divine being, there lots of divine beings but there's only one Creator God. All other divine beings are created beings. Some of them are angelic, some of those are demonic. There's one God and how many mediators between us and God? Just one. Just one. I was raised Catholic. Many Catholics know and love Jesus, I did and I don't have a beef with the Catholic Church but I was taught early on that the church help mediate between me and God, that the priest help mediate between me and God, that the sacraments of baptism, communion and marriage help mediate between me and God. I would go into a confessional and confess my sins to the priest because then, he would be the mediator who would bring my sins to God. And then I read this in college and I was like, "I only need one guy." Who's that? The man Christ Jesus. If I wanna have a relationship with God, I need Christ Jesus. If I wanna confess my sin, I need Christ Jesus. If I wanna go to heaven, I need Christ Jesus. I don't need the church, I don't need the sacraments, I don't need the priests. Those things may serve me but only Jesus can save me. Only Jesus can save me. I literally He had a guy come up to me not too long ago. I was preaching about it. He didn't know the language so this is not a judgment on him at all. But he looked at me and said, "Pastor Mark, I need you to save me." Front row. After the sermon, apparently, I did not do a good job, you know? So, I said, "What do you mean?" He's like, "I don't wanna go to hell. I need Jesus." I said, "Okay, well, I can't save you. Like it's not a group on like, I'm in, you wanna go with me? It's not a two for one, it doesn't work like that, right? It's a single file line, you've got to make this decision for yourself." I said, "No, no, I can't save you. I can introduce you to Jesus and he is the Savior. So I can serve you but only he can save you. So I can serve you by telling you about him but only he can save you." Only he could save you. Let me say this too. And by the way lecture, these are all just rifts. It's just kind of the free flowing so if it's good, praise the Lord. If not, blame me. But this is the thought that comes to mind. Many of us love people so much that we wanna find a way to save them. So if your kid's low, you're like, "Get them baptized so they don't go to hell." Well, Jesus saves, not water. Right? And sometimes, even if you had a relative that died and they didn't know the Lord, Mormonism has come up with this whole thing where they check your

genealogy. That's why they do all the ancestry.com so that then you can be baptized in the temple in the name of a deceased relative and potentially have them saved after they have died. It's trying to save your relatives. Hebrews 9:27, "It's appointed once for man to die, then judgment." You die and you're judged, it's over. Some people, will, even if they have a loved one, they'll want them, okay just say this prayer. I don't believe in God, I don't believe in Jesus, I don't wanna be a... Oh, just say this prayer 'cause if you say this prayer, maybe it's like magic and you'll be saved, okay? And the truth is, sometimes, we love people so much that we're trying to find ways that either we can save them or something religious or superstitious will save them. Baptism doesn't save, just saying a prayer doesn't save, going to church doesn't save, being a good person doesn't save, just coming forward for an altar call doesn't save. Any of those things could be very helpful if in your heart, you understand a sinner and you do receive Jesus as your Savior but if you do those things without the relationship, the relationship is meaningless because there is no relationship. In the same, this is my wedding ring. I'm married My wife Grace when we were aged 21 in college. this is very, very meaningful because it points to a relationship. But guess what, if I'm a single guy that never got married, this is a meaningless symbol because it points to no relationship. Baptism is great if you have a relationship with Jesus, communion is great if you have relationship with Jesus, praying a prayer is great if you have a relationship with Jesus, coming forward at camp is great if it's to start your relationship with Jesus. Those things are all great but if you don't have the relationship, they're meaningless. And those things don't save, only Jesus saves. Does that make sense? So that's he's going, there's only... So then, who does Jesus save? Who does Jesus save? And I appreciate the note person moving me along 'cause I take too long. Who does Jesus save? Now, this is pretty amazing. Acts 5, "The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead whom you had killed." That was offensive to the religious people that heard this. Hey, God showed up, he killed him. But God raised him up so there you go. That kinda proves you guys were wrong. "By hanging him on a tree." Deuteronomy says that cursed has anyone hung on a tree. We looked at that in the crucifixion lecture. "God exalted him to his own right hand." So now, he's in heaven, ruling and reigning from the right hand of the Father. As Prince and what? "Savior," Jesus is, "that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel." He's talking here about what group of people? The Jewish people or the Hebrew people. What he says is Jesus was Jewish, he came, you Jewish leaders killed him, God raised him, send him up to heaven and here's what's crazy. The Jewish Jesus will still save Jewish people including the Jewish people who killed him. This is why I don't understand antisemitism. People like, "I hate the Jews." It's like, well, I worship one. Grace and I were out recently and there was a car pulled up. We're looking for a place and this cute elderly couple pulled up and I said, "I'm sorry, can I just ask you for directions?" I said, "We're kinda turned around in the neighborhood." And I said, "Hey, is there a good church around here?" We're out of town." They said, "We don't know, we're Jewish. We're Jewish." I said, "That's okay, I worship a Jewish guy. We're good." And they chuckled. I said, "No, actually," I said, "you guys should really get to know Jesus. Like, he's an amazing Jewish guy. He's amazing." And they thought it was funny that me, as a Gentile, I love Jesus who's Jewish, they don't love Jesus who's Jewish. But even in the car, I just took my little quick drive by to let them know a little joke and tell them about Jesus. Because Jesus was Jewish and Jesus loves Jewish people and if you're antisemitic, you can't even love the one who saves you. So Jesus comes for the Jewish people and throughout the New Testament, they're always sent out, first, for the Jew, then for the Gentile or Paul goes into a town, he'll preach at the synagogue to the Jewish people and then to the marketplace to the Gentiles. The gospel is to go forth in Acts, Jerusalem, Judea,



Samaria, ends of the earth. It starts with the Jewish people. The first Christians were Jewish people. They were fulfilling the Old Testament promises. So Jesus comes as Savior for Jewish people. And I would just say, I would encourage you, have a heart and be praying for or Israel. After the Holocaust, some would suggest that the highest percentage of atheists of any nation in the world are in Israel. A lot of the Jewish people, after the what they went through the Holocaust came to the conclusion, there must be no God. There must be no God. And so we want Jewish people to know and love Jesus. He's Jewish so that should work for them. 1 John 4:14, "The Father has sent his son." There's our word Savior. Savior of what? The world. That's all the nations, okay? The word cosmos has seven senses. Here, I believe, it's used of all the nations. So, just even for a moment, just think in this room, all the different nations that were from. Hey, what nations, historically, or what nations, generationally, or in what nations through ancestry, just quickly, throw them out. What nations are you guys from?

- [Woman] Ireland.

- Ireland. Hey, we were the old Driscolls. What's that? Sweden. The Philippines. Germany.

- China.

- China. England, Scotland, Mexico. Put those together, that's a good night, yeah? Who else? Who else?

- [Woman] France.

- France. What's that? Denmark, where? Honduras. Italy.

- [Man] Boston.

- Austin. Oh, Boston.

- [Man] Brazil.

- Brazil, okay. Brazil through Boston. You're really fun. You're extra fun. Just so, here, he says that he would be the Savior of the world. Just sitting here in this room, it's true, right? I mean think about all of us people from all these different places and we're all here because of one person named Jesus. And the one thing we hold in common in is he's our Savior. This is where our world looks and says, "Why don't all the races and why don't all the cultures and what all the nations just get along?" Well, if they had Jesus at the center, they would. But if anyone or anything other than Jesus is in the center, all you're gonna get is division, you're not gonna get unity. So, here we are, we're a demonstration of the kingdom of God. All these people from all these places and you know what God says, Jesus saved all of you. Great, so we're all on the same team, we're all in the same family, we'll have have the same Lord. That means we're brothers and sisters, we're gonna be together forever so let's get along in the meantime. The promise has come true, he's the Savior of the whole world. So why Christianity now is the most global movement of any sort or kind in the history of the world. More languages, nations, cultures and people. And I always find it frustrating when people are like, "Oh, Christianity is a Western religion." No, it's

not. Most of the Bible was written in the Middle East or in Africa or in Asia. It's an Eastern book and most of the people on planet Earth today who say that they're Christians, they're in Africa, they're in Asian countries, they're scattered in India or China. Like this is... Jesus is global. He's not just tied to one race or one cultural heritage. He's the Savior of the whole world, amen? That's the beauty of the family of God. Luke 19:10. "For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost." So who did Jesus come for? Lost people. So one of the being found is actually acknowledging that you're lost. And this is the humility to say, "I don't know what I'm doing." But when it comes to eternal life, got me, I don't know what I'm doing. I'm lost. And this is where some people will say Christianity is too easy because all you got to do is say, "I'm lost, I'm a sinner, Jesus be my Savior, please, find me." I would submit to you it is very hard because it takes humility. How many of you... Let's just do this, a little marriage therapy. I always throw in a free little counseling session. So how many of you are married, your husband gets lost and you're driving? So you demonstrate humility. Babe, I don't know where I'm going, I don't know what I'm doing. I'm gonna humble myself, pull over and say, I'm stupid and ask for directions. If you met that man, he's a unicorn. I mean, he is a mythical creature, right? They only exist in theory. So much of the time, we will even pretend that we know where we're going or what we're doing when we don't because we'd rather fail than admit the fact that we don't know what we're doing. Okay? My wife just chuckled. That's very... That hurts my heart, okay? So, it hurts heart. But it's very accurate. "The Son of Man came to seek and save those who were lost." How many of you, honestly, when Jesus found you, you're like, you're just lost. You're like, "I do not know what I am doing, I do not know where I'm going." Because here's the difference. You can have an education and no wisdom. You can have a lot of information and no wisdom. You can have a low IQ and be completely lost. And so, our world thinks, well, if you just are smart and learn a lot, you'll figure it out. Some of the smartest, most educated people are the most lost. They don't know what they're doing. Jesus came for the lost. And then 1 Timothy 1:15, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save," who? Sinners. Of whom? I'm the worst. Paul said, "You think you're bad, I murdered Christians." That was what he did before he became a Christian. He was a religious terrorist. Came to save sinners. So let me say this. This is where... The basic tenants of Christianity is I'm a sinner, he's a Savior. I'm lost, he finds. This is Christianity, okay? Acts 16:31. "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved," you and who? Your whole family, your whole family. How many of you have seen that? Maybe somebody in your family got saved, next thing you know, the dominoes start falling. You're like, man, Jesus is, he's given us all new jerseys, we're changing teams. so I'll tell you my story, I got saved first. Well, my mom got saved first. My mom loved Jesus, she was a born again, spirit-filled Catholic who got healed and she loved Jesus and that she started praying for the rest of us. I had no interest in Jesus, church, spiritual things, not at all. In college, God saved me, Jesus saved me. Well, then my dad get saved, my siblings get saved, now, all five kids in my family are saved. My mom and dad are all saved, we're all Christians and then God did the most amazing thing. In my extended family, there was like a mini revival. I have aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews that growing up they didn't know Jesus, today, they love Jesus. I've got multiple pastors, missionaries in my family. It's kind of shocking and it's amazing because as I hear their stories, they tell me how Jesus saved them. It's actually, with whole sort of trees, branches, rather, on our family tree, as I get together with them, it's just amazing. Even people I didn't really know, they'll come and be like, "Oh, let me tell you my testimony how Jesus saved me." I'm like this is crazy. It's like a mini revival of my extended family. Like he didn't just get one of us, like he went for a lot of us. I mean right now I have multiple cousins that are pastors that love Jesus. And I grew up, so, me, I grew up up

the street from a few strip clubs next to an airport where the Green River Killer and Ted Bundy were murdering prostitutes. That's where I grew up, okay? So I was this close to being a pastor. My neighborhood didn't produce a lot of Bible teachers. There's not a whole bunch of us, like I can't wait to have chastity and purity and fidelity and walk with Jesus faithfully. And out of that family comes a whole bunch of Christians. So, here's what I would say. If Jesus has saved you, as long as family members are alive, don't lose hope. Don't stop praying for them, don't stop talking to them and if you do anything, I would say buy 'em a Bible. That's what I got saved, I just started reading the Bible. But hold out hope in your heart for your household, okay? How many of you have had this? You've seen family members get saved. It's the best thing in the world, right? How many of you had a really strained relationship with the mom or a dad or grandma or grandpa or brother or sister and this came up and they're like, "What I did was a sin. I am very sorry. It's so bad God died for it and he forgave me. I'm asking you to forgive me." That just heals a whole family. How are you just hearing that, it makes it choke up? It just heals the whole family. And love when Jesus saves whole families. One of my favorite things to see is like, a dad gets baptized, turns around and then helps baptize his wife and then the kids get in and then the mom and dad baptize the kids. Like that's when I look like I won Miss America. My mascara's dripping, I'm very emotional because I love seeing that. Now, we're looking at generational legacy and healed relationships in the family. It goes on to say, "Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior" So what Jesus does is he takes Jewish people, non-Jewish people, lost people, sinners and even connected relationships through household and what he does, he puts us all together as the church over which he is the head and the Savior. It's beautiful. This is why I love the church so much because the church is where you have the front row seat to hear about all the people that Jesus saved. I know some of you, I know some of your salvation stories. I know some of you are new Christians in recent months or years. And you need to know, when you tell your salvation story for the rest of us, it's awesome. It's super encouraging, it never gets old and when you hear how Jesus showed up and saved someone, it is literally the most exciting thing and that's what means, that's why I believe that ministry is the most exciting place. I mean, some people are like, "I love seeing three point shots" or "I love seeing touchdowns" or "I love seeing a guy with a golf handicap." I like to see death to life. That's what really fires me up. I like to see lost to found, I like to see sinner to saint, I like to see a hell to heaven. That's what sort of keeps my tractor crank. That's my thing, amen? So let me say this too. Do you know Jesus? Some of you hearing this may not. You may be here because you're thinking, "Well, I'm interested." Okay, great, it's an honor to have you, we love you. Some of you may say, "Well, I was born into a Christian family." You need to be born again into God's family. All you need to do is just acknowledge I'm a sinner. Jesus is my Savior. And if you want ask him to be your Savior, here's the good news about Jesus. We make requests to people all the time and they do one of two things. Either say no or they say yes but they don't do it. If you ask Jesus to be your Savior, he'll do it, he'll say he'll do it and he'll do it. See, that's what it's amazing about Jesus. He never says no and if he says yes, he always finishes the job. So this would be an opportunity for those of you who are with us and it's an honor to have you, I thought for many years, I was a Christian 'cause my mom was a Christian but not me. I thought I was a Christian 'cause when I was a baby, they baptized me in the church. It was fun. I mean it was like swimming for a kid but it didn't save me. Then I took communion in the church and I thought, "Well, that saved me." That didn't save me. And I believe there was a God. Well, Satan knows there's a God. I didn't love Jesus and I didn't hate my sin. And it wasn't until I was 19 in college that I knew a lot about Jesus and that's when I came to know Jesus. You can know a lot about a

person without really knowing them. What we're talking about here is you and Jesus getting to know one another. And you as a sinner saying, "Okay, Jesus, this is actually who I am and what I've done." And Jesus is saying, "That's why I died and I love you. Love me, forgive all of that so that we can have this relationship." But those of you who have received Jesus, you don't regret it. There are decisions we all make that we regret. We all have things in our life looking back saying, if I could do one thing over, here's what I've never heard. I've never heard a Christian say, "I really regret meeting Jesus." Never heard of it. There's zero buyer's remorse for Jesus. Everyone I've ever met said, "I met Jesus. That's the best decision that was ever made." Okay? So this would be where I would tell you, this is a decision that you need to make. And I don't wanna just talk about Jesus being Savior without giving you an invitation to receive Jesus as Savior and it's very, very simple. He's alive in heaven right now. He lived without sin, a perfect life so you don't have to be perfect, pressure's off. He died so that you don't need to be punished. He rose so that you can be saved and I'll talk about that more in a moment and he's alive right now in heaven ruling and reigning and even if in the silence of your heart or mind, you say, Jesus, I'm a sinner, I need a Savior. He hears that, he answers that, he blesses that and he saves you, amen? Amen. So, in addition to who does Jesus save? Here's what I'm trying to do. Put you on the list, okay? 'Cause I know some of you'd be like, "What are you trying to do, get me saved?" Totally, that's exactly what I'm trying to do. I can serve you but I can't save you. Only he can save you. This is between you and him. So then how is Christianity the most exclusive and inclusive belief system? Okay, some people say, "I can't accept Christianity. It's too exclusive." It's also the most inclusive. So, Luke 13:23-24. Someone said to him, they're talking to him, "Lord Jesus, will those who are saved be few?" So he's talking again about a Savior. So the number of people saved, is it a big number or a little number? That's the question. He said, "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able." The concept of heaven is that the door is open but is it a big door a little door? Little door. Little door. So what That means is people will be saved but not everybody. So they'd be like, "Everybody's get saved." No, Jesus said, "Narrow door and few are saved." So I'm gonna go with Jesus, okay? If he's the Savior, I'm gonna go with Jesus. He says it's a door that's open, praise God, but it's a narrow door and few people actually choose that door. What some people do, they complain about the door. I don't like the color of the door, I don't like the size of the door, I don't like where the door is, I don't like the deal terms for the door or I don't like the people in line to go through the door. So they stand back their whole life and they sort of judge and critique the door. But if the house is on fire, you should do what? Get in line to go through the door and just be glad that there's a door and be glad that the door is open. I'm telling you that this world is on fire, that hell is coming and that Jesus is a little door that's open and we shouldn't complain about the door or the location of the door or the people in line going through the door, we should run to the door and run through the door. So what faith is. John 10:9, Jesus says what? Okay, if this wasn't clear, who's the door? I'm the door, okay? So be like, "Okay, I believe in Jesus. Where's the door?" Same thing, Jesus is the door. And what that means is there's heaven, there's hell. Here we are on earth. Hell is coming up, heaven is coming down and our only hope is to pass through the door from where we are to where he is. That's faith, that's trusting him. "I am the door. If anyone enters by me," he will be what? Let me just tell you, that's a pretty great return on investment. Right? Any investment that we make, there's no guarantee. Put your money in real estate, it's secure. Then it's '07, '08. Well, put your money in stocks and then we shut down the economy. Some of you are like, "I dumped it all into Blockbuster. Dang you Netflix." Right? It's hard to know so where's a safe investment. Here's what Jesus says. Anyone who trusts in me,

guaranteed return on investment, Will be saved. That's a promise. It's guaranteed. It's guaranteed. And then Revelation 5:9, "They sang a new song saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and open its seals.'" It's about the worship of Jesus in the unseen realm, which someday, we will see. "For you were slain and by your blood, you ransomed people from every tribe, language and people and nation." Okay, let me let me say this. First of all, let me unpack all of this. We'll deal with the exclusive and that's that there's one narrow door and the inclusive that everyone is welcomed to come through the one narrow door, okay? So what Christianity is, it is the most narrow religion. There's one door, his name is Jesus, that's it. But it's the most inclusive. You could be rich, poor, black, white, young, old, Democrat, Republican. You can be anybody or anything and guess what, you're welcome to go through the same door. So in that way, it's the most inclusive. Many religions, God only likes this group of people. You got to be this race, this color, this nationality, need to speak this language, you need to do these deeds, that God doesn't really invite everybody. It's a very short list of people that their version or view of God cares about. The Christianity, again, Jesus is the Savior of the world. Everybody's welcome to pass through the one narrow door named Jesus. Now, what happens is now, immediately, some people start to judge Jesus at this point and they'll say like, "I don't think it's right that not everybody gets into heaven." Okay, let's field test that concept. Do you want everyone who's ever lived to be together with you forever and not change? Imagine what this world would be like if nobody died and they got to do whatever they wanted to do forever. Do you think it would get better? No. So, if everybody went to heaven and nobody had to change, heaven would be hell. You see that? If you walked into that reality, you're like nobody dies and nobody's changed and everybody does whatever they want, there's no consequence? Yes. Well, this ain't heaven, this is hell. In addition, who has the right to put a door on heaven? 'Cause heaven is the Father's house. Jesus says, "In my Father's house, there are many rooms. If it were not that way, I would not have told you about it but I'm going to prepare a place for you." So Jesus concept is that heaven is like the Father's house. Okay, so let's say here's the Father's house, here we are. Is it reasonable that the Father's house has a door on it? Here's my thing. First time I debated in college against a group of, I think, it was atheist, they were like, "We just don't believe. We believe Christianity is very discriminatory because there's only one way." And I said, "Well, Jesus says he's the narrow door." They're like, "Yeah, we think that's wrong." And so my question was do you have a door on your house? 'Cause if you do, you're a hypocrite. If you got a door on your house, God gets a door on his house, amen? Why do you have a door on your house? Because you don't want everybody in. And if they're gonna come in, you wanna make sure that they have your permission and approval because this ain't your house. What happens if you take the door off your house and you leave for a couple of days? You move back in, somebody else thinks it's their house. They've moved in. If you and I have a door on our house, God has a right to have a door on his house. See how this works? And the thing is how many of us let our enemies move into our house? How many of you have an enemy living with you? If you're married, don't raise your hand. But I'm saying as a... You got to put a caveat on it. But what we don't do is we don't go out and broadcast all of my enemies are welcome to move into my house. Just come knock on the door and I will tell you what my house is like and then I'll welcome you in and I'm gonna love you and how's you and feed you. None of us makes that invitation to our enemies. The reason that God has Jesus as the door is because you have to admit that you're a sinner, you have to receive him as a Savior and now, when you join the family, you agree on how you're gonna treat God's sons and daughters. This is no different than me as a dad and head of household saying, there's a door on my house, you knock, you can only come in if

you have my permission and I'm gonna make sure that you're not gonna hurt my family 'cause I love them. And you may say that's very unloving. That's not how my family sees it. My family actually sees a dad with a door, and we're in Arizona, with a gun so a dad and a door and a gun, my family sees that as very loving 'cause I'm not gonna let anyone come in and harm them. You're welcome to come in if you will love them but you can't come in and harm them. This is the Bible's language for heaven. And so Jesus says it this way in Revelation 3:20. He says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." He's using this imagery. I'll give you an analogy. Jesus is the door and he stands at the door and you're on the other side of the door and he's willing to open the door but you've got to come to the door. Some years ago, when our kids were little, we would stay in hotels especially for baseball team is traveling. We have five kids so we will be, we don't fit in one hotel room so we'd always ask for what kind of hotel room? Adjoining rooms with a door that can open in between. So, what Grace and I would do, we would go into our room and then the kids would go into their room and we would open our half of the door and guess what we would do. Knock on their half of the door, trying to get the five-year-old open the door. Otherwise, they're gonna be doing that movie "Home Alone" in a hotel and that's not gonna go good. Now, what we needed was we opened our half of the door and we knocked on the door and now, what we needed them to do was what? Open their side of the door. Jesus is using this language of heaven. He's like, "I got my door open. I'm willing to come in and have you come be with me and I'm knocking on the door but I need you to open the door." And what that is, that's repentance of sin and faith in Jesus. I'm a sinner, I need a Savior. Jesus, here I am. Okay, he's using this language. So then... So Let me just why's it in this way. When he talks about people from every tribe, tongue, language, nation, people group, what it's saying is Christianity is the most inclusive. Everybody's welcome! And the most exclusive, to pass through the narrow door of Jesus Christ. So then, last two questions. What does Jesus save us from? I'll never forget, I was in high school. I don't know if it was a Go Save Mark Week or what at my high school but every Christian come off like, "You need to be saved." I was like, "From what?" You just need to be saved. From what? I mean unless I know what I'm saved from, I'm not sure it's that urgent. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10, "The coming of the lawless one," that's the antichrist, "will be in accordance with the works of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs, wonders and in every sort of evil that deceive those who are perishing. They perish because they refuse to love the truth and be," what? Saved. Saved from who? Satan. Okay, you're saved from Satan. If you don't know Jesus, Satan is actively involved in your life. That the demonic realm is like gravity. It's an invisible force constantly pulling you down whether you recognize it or not. When you're saved, you're saved from Satan. The Bible says that he's rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his marvelous light in Colossians. In addition, Jesus will save his people from what? They're sins. So you're saved from Satan, you're saved from sin. All your sins are forgiven and God starts to change you from the inside out with a new nature through the Holy Spirit so that you start having a new lifestyle that saves you from even some of the dumb and self-destructive decisions that you would make to wreck your own life. He saves you from sin now and sin forever. 2 Timothy 1:10. "It has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior," so there's our language again, "Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and brought life and immortality and light through the gospel." So Christ is our Savior what? Death. Jesus saves from death. People are most terrified of death. Jesus defeats death, he saves us from death. All it is it's going into eternal life. 2 Peter 2:4-9. "If God did not spare angels when they sinned," and here's what's amazing. Satan and demons, fallen angels, there's no salvation for them, only for you and me. Jesus didn't die for demons, he only died for

people. We get a salvation opportunity that spirit beings do not get, only human beings do get. That's amazing. So they were like, "I don't know how God can send anybody to hell." Here's my thing. I'm shocked he takes anybody to heaven. The angels fell became demons, 100% go to hell, zero go to heaven. We do the exact same thing and we get a Savior. That's an amazing deal. We get a far better deal than the demons do. We get a Savior. "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them into hell." So that's what we're saved from. "And committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment. Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the Day of Judgment." Save from what? Hell, that's what he's talking about there with being spared, it's being saved from hell. I can tell you I never ever, ever, ever, ever worry about going to hell. I don't even think about it. I also don't think about being tall. These are just things that aren't gonna happen. These are just things that are not gonna happen. They're not in my future. And so, I've had Christians come up and they're like, "I'm so worried, I'm gonna go to hell." Why? They're like, "I'm not sure I've done enough" or "I'm not sure I've been good enough." You're not the Savior. When Jesus said it is finished, the Savior did all the work. It's all taken care of. If you have Jesus, you're saved, right? You don't have to worry about hell. You don't have to worry about it. And let me say this too. Sometimes people come in, they're like, "I'm so worried about going to hell." Why are you worried about going to hell? "I'm worried about going to hell 'cause I love Jesus and I don't wanna go..." Let me tell you. People who are going to hell aren't freaked out about it 'cause they love Jesus so much so you're fine, okay? The fact you're freaking out means you are saved, okay? So just take a nap with the Savior. Just calm down, right? You'll be all right, you're saved. Romans 5:9. "We shall be saved from God's wrath through him." People tend to think, when they're sinning that they're getting away with everything, they're not. They're storing up everything. The Bible gives this language of the cup of wrath. When Jesus says, before he goes to the cross, "Father, take this cup from me." It's the cup of wrath. And so the imagery, the language is imagine in the presence of God, an infinite number of cups and on each cup is your name and my name. This is like when you're a kid and you get a cup with your name on it. Well, in the presence of God, there's this infinite number of cups and each one of us, our name is on a cup and every time we sin, we are storing up the wrath of God in the cup. Now, there's two choices. Jesus drinks the cup on the cross or we drink the cup in hell. The cup will be emptied for God's justice. It's the cup of God's wrath. So when Jesus is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if it be your will, take this cup from me." That was your cup with your name on it. When Jesus was on the cross and he says, . "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" God the Father poured out his wrath on God the Son and turned his back on God the Son. And in that moment, the wrath of God was satisfied in the death of Jesus. The New Testament uses the word propitiation. It appears four times but it means that Jesus endured the wrath of God so that you could receive the grace of God. So here's what you need to know. When you sin, there may be consequences but God is not punishing you because the wrath has been poured out on Jesus, therefore, you are saved from the wrath of God. You may not be saved from the consequences of your sin. If you drink and drive and roll your car, it's gonna hurt. That's a consequence for your sin. If you belong to Jesus, even though it is a sin, you will not die and go to hell to pay the penalty for it forever because he drank the cup with your name on it. And so, we tend to think of hell as where Satan rules and reigns, it's not. Satan is where Jesus rules and reigns and he perfectly hands out justice according to the wrath of God. So then, lastly. Let me say this too back real quickly. "Our old self was crucified with him." Let me hit this one briefly. You are also saved from you. Think about it. For those of you have been a Christian for a while, how has God

saved you from you? What if you got everything you ever wanted? Would that be better? What if every request you ever made of God, he gave to you? Would that have been good? No. I can promise you that the most destructive force in my life apart from a Savior would absolutely, unequivocally, be me. Okay? I would be a far worse husband and I'm not saying I should get a gold star. I would be a far worse dad and I'm not saying that I'm valedictorian of the dads. I'm saying that who I am without Jesus would be an absolute selfish, self-destructive, sad disaster because I'm not the savior, I'm the sinner. I'm not the solution, I'm the problem. And not only does Jesus save me from all of these things, Satan, sin, death, hell, the wrath of God, Jesus also saved Mark from Mark and he's gonna do it again tomorrow. How many of you looking at your life? If you just got to be your savior, you are gonna be your worst nightmare, right? And so when people say, "What are you saved from?" You're saved from all these things. And here's the thing I like to say. You're saved from God by God for God. You're saved from God, you're saved by God, you're saved for God. So, in Jonah, he says, "Salvation is of the Lord." It's all the Lord. We'll close with these last few. How will Jesus Christ be our Savior at his Second Coming? So we're waiting for him to come. He came once as our Savior, he's coming again to finish the saving work for all of humanity and all of eternity. Philippians 3:20, "Our citizenship is in heaven," and we wait who? A Savior from Christ the Lord. Jesus is coming back, the dead are gonna raise, salvation is gonna get all finished. Titus 2:13. "We wait for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our God and Savior Jesus Christ." Not only you're saved from Satan, sin, death, hell, the wrath of God and you, you're saved to Jesus and he's coming back and he's got awesome forever for all of his people and you're gonna see your Savior. That's the blessed hope of the Christian. You're like, "That is gonna be an awesome day every day." And then Romans 10:13, "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be," what? Saved. Everybody who calls on Jesus, everyone who trusts in Jesus, everyone who believes on Jesus, everyone who belongs to Jesus, ultimately, you are saved, you are being saved, he's coming back, you will be saved. It is salvation in this moment, it's walking in that salvation every moment until you see him and forever, he is your Savior. And for all of eternity, you and I are gonna have this wonderful opportunity to just ask people this story and I think we're gonna do this a ton in heaven. So tell me about your salvation story. That's crazy. Tell me about your salvation story. That's crazy. So much of eternity is gonna be meeting brothers and sisters that we've never met that Jesus has saved, adopted into God's family and hearing their rescue story. And I believe this is why, and this just comes to mind as I'm standing here, we love those television shows or we love those movies or we love them those books where it tells the life story of someone who got saved in some form or fashion. Life was bad, somebody came in, made it all better, now, their life is awesome, yay! It's because something in us wants that that story. We love that story. And when we're together with Jesus, all we're gonna do is be sharing those stories about how we were saved, amen? Which is why we encourage one another right now by telling our story. Tell me your testimony. And this is the difference between a testimony to biography. A biography is here's what I did. A testimony is here's what he did. Our world is biography. So tell us how you pulled yourself up by your bootstraps. I don't have any boots or straps. I'm the sinner, not the Savior. I have a testimony, not a biography. Jesus did it. I didn't do it.