

Our Time to Shine - Part 1 - Adrian Davis

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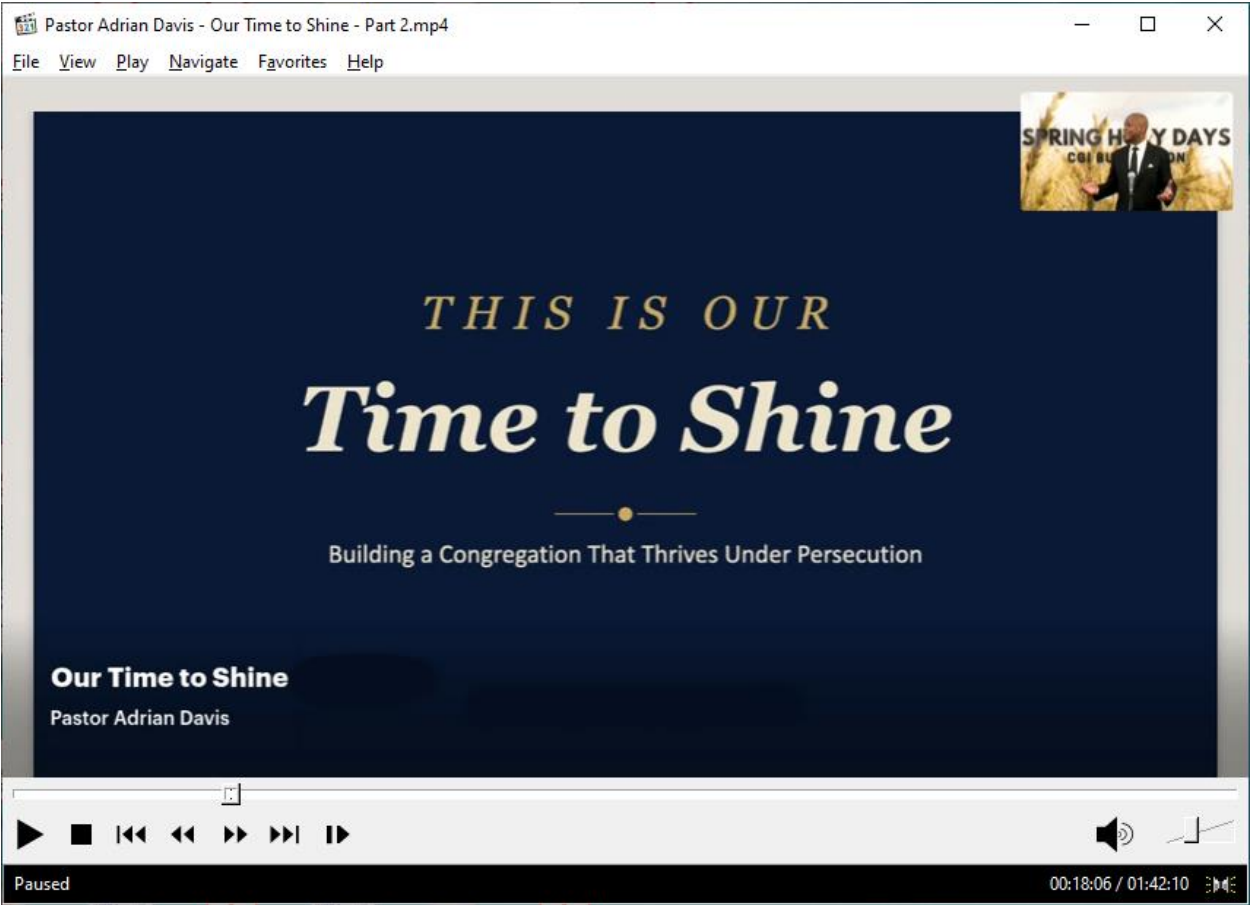
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Transcript - Part 1



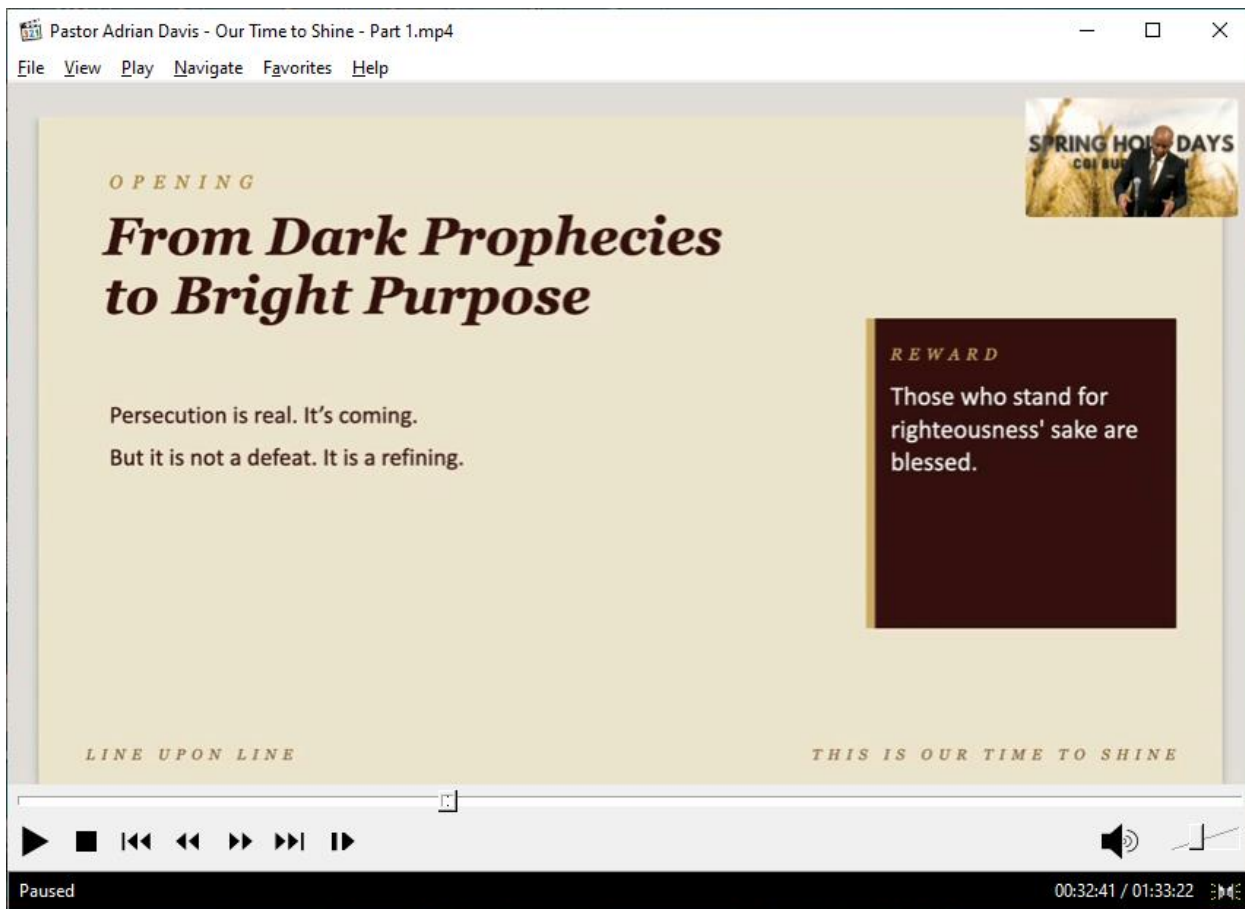
- 13:48: The title of the message is Our Time to Shine, which will be part one by Adrian Davis.
- 16:45: I was intrigued by this hymn that you chose, Deacon Jan, page 67.
- 17:02: Till Christ comes, we'll endure, living God's way, true and pure.
- 17:06: This is actually what I want to talk about today.
- 17:09: And I see here it says, Earth shall grow dark and drear.
- 17:15: Jacob's trouble shall appear.
- 17:17: That's what I want to talk about today.
- 17:20: Till the last trumpet call, God will see us through.
- 17:24: So I was quite taken by those lyrics.
- 17:28: Your daughter, OK, well done.
- 17:31: You, you were inspired and you inspired me.
- 17:34: that's exactly what I want to talk about is endurance.

17:39: And I think we can have, can you hear me OK, Mike?
17:41: Yeah, I think we can have.
17:45: A view of endurance that is passive.
17:49: You just have to hang on, right?
17:51: It's like you're holding onto a rope and you're enduring.
17:54: You just have to hold on till the end.
17:56: That's not what God is asking of us.
18:00: He's asking not passive endurance, but active endurance.
18:04: We've got to be at work right up until he returns and to be found so doing.
18:09: He wants us actively working.
18:11: And so there's an assumption in the hymn.
18:15: That we are actually doing His will.
18:18: And then yes, he will look after us, but if we're just passively enduring.
18:22: No sense of urgency, then I don't think we can assume that God will look after us till the end.
18:29: I think we have to be in His will and to endure.
18:35: We need structure.
18:37: And when I was a much younger man, I had nothing to do with engineers, but I had a project with an engineer, a very elite engineering company in Canada.
18:48: And I noticed that 80-90% of the men and the women had an iron ring.
18:55: On their finger on on their baby finger, pinky finger, and I just asked, what is that?
19:01: Because I didn't know what it was and it turns out that there is a story behind this ring.
19:08: Some will wear it on the left hand, some will wear it on the right hand.
19:12: The point is they have to wear it on their dominant hand.
19:15: Whichever hand they are going to be drawing with, it needs to be on the pinky finger so that it drags.
19:22: And it scrapes And it reminds them of a tragedy.
19:27: And this tragedy Took place on August 29th.
19:32: 2007.
19:34: When the Quebec Bridge collapsed during construction.
19:40: Calculation errors had been spotted weeks before, but they were dismissed as not serious.
19:47: So there were flaws in the calculations.
19:51: They were known, but they were not dealt with because they felt it wasn't serious.
19:57: In 15 seconds, the entire bridge fell into the Saint Lawrence River.
20:05: 75 workers were killed.
20:10: In 1916.
20:14: 9 years later, it collapsed the second time.
20:18: And this time it killed 17 people.
20:25: So out of that tragedy, the Canadian engineers created a ritual.
20:30: That every graduate would receive the Iron Ring.
20:35: And it would be worn on the little finger of the working hand, so that every time the engineer signed a drawing, every time they turned a wrench, the ring would rub against their hand and remind them, structure is not theoretical.
20:51: Structure is not theoretical.

20:55: When structure fails, people die.

20:59: When structure fails, people die, and so maybe you can.

21:04: Bring up my slide Structure is what I want to talk about today.



21:08: So this is a two-part series.

21:10: I want to talk about structure in part one, and I want to talk about power in part two.

21:17: You'll remember that Last week and the week before, I had a two-part series on the beast in the Middle East in prophecy.

21:27: And the 2 weeks before that, Deacon Jan had a 2-week series on replacements.

21:33: And separation theology.

21:35: And how all these tie together as we're heading into Pentecost.

21:41: Is that we face some very dark prophecies.

21:45: If we are real and take God at His word, Jacob's trouble is at hand.

21:52: And the whole world is heading into trouble.

21:54: It's getting very, very dark, and it's going to be dark for the church.

22:01: Particularly, it's going to be dark for Judah.

22:05: The house of Israel in the Promised Land is going to be dark for Jerusalem if we subscribe.

22:11: And many of us do, to replacement theology, the more Jerusalem is in the crosshairs, the more Judah is in trouble.

22:20: The more indifferent we become Because they don't matter.

22:24: We've replaced them.

22:26: If we move from replacement theology to separation theology where we acknowledge there are outstanding promises for the nation of Israel, well, it's separation theology.

22:37: They don't need Christ.

22:39: So no matter what is happening to them, we don't feel the need to warn them.

22:44: So these are tied together in that.

22:48: If we do God's will.

22:51: Of warning Israel, warning the house of Israel, warning the house of Judah, we are going to come under.

22:57: Attack we are going to be highlighted and targeted for persecution.

23:01: But we will, we will only do the work if we reject.

23:06: Replacement theology.

23:08: And if we reject separation theology.

23:12: This work is going to be hard.

23:15: So I'm, I'm telling you this.

23:17: Today is much like yesterday and tomorrow is most likely will be like today, but the future is very different.

23:24: And the future is going to be harsh.

23:25: I don't know when it will come, but it's on its way.

23:28: I don't know the ETA, but it's on its way.

23:32: And we're going to face difficult times.

23:35: What did he say here?

23:37: Structure, that the lesson of wearing the ring is structure is not theoretical.

23:43: When structure fails, people die.

23:46: The church needs Structural integrity.

23:51: And that is in fact what I want to talk about in this first part.

23:55: We need structural integrity so that we can receive fully the gifts of the Holy Spirit and that we can deploy them optimally.

24:03: If we don't have structure, we won't be able to do this.

24:05: Let's begin in John chapter 16.

24:09: John chapter 16.

24:21: So that hymn was very fascinating to me.

24:23: So we need to have this.

24:26: Dual focus of seeing the reality of the darkness ahead.

24:30: And simultaneously being excited.

24:33: Knowing that we are actually here for a purpose.

24:35: God has actually called us.

24:36: He's placed us.

24:37: He's handpicked us.

24:38: He's put us in this role for glory.

24:41: This, this is our opportunity, this is our time to shine.

24:45: Just to bring a, a focal point on the last two sermons around the beast and the Middle East in prophecy here in John 16 and verse 1, Christ warning his disciples, sharing reality with them, not wanting them to be ignorant of the difficult days ahead.

25:00: He says these things I have spoken unto you, that you should not be offended.

25:06: At the same time, he says, many will be offended.

25:10: The whack the the the love of many will wax cold.

25:13: Brother will betray brother.

25:14: He, he says all of this, he tells us this is what's gonna happen, but he's telling us ahead of time so that we won't be offended.

25:21: That we will actually understand that the nature of the times that we're heading into, and he says, they shall put you out of the synagogues, out of the assemblies, they want nothing to do with us.

25:31: So the more we are in alignment with God's will, the more we will be hated for his name's sake.

25:37: That people want nothing to do with us.

25:39: We have to be prepared for this, and when this happens, without structural integrity, we cannot endure.

25:46: Without structural integrity, we cannot have the power of the Holy Spirit released to face whatever is coming.

25:52: And so he said, they'll put you out of the synagogues, yes.

25:55: The time comes, so I don't know the ETA, but Christ said it's coming.

26:00: The time comes that whosoever kills you.

26:04: will think that he's doing God's service.

26:07: There's no fanatic worse than a religious fanatic.

26:11: These are the worst.

26:13: Because the conviction that they are doing God's work drives them to do the most despicable evil and feel good about it.

26:22: And so this is what we're heading into.

26:25: Let's now go to Matthew 5.

26:33: Just a couple of scriptures, just to give us context and and connect sort of this connective tissue to the last two sermons on the beast and the Middle East and prophecy.

26:43: What does it mean for us as the church?

26:45: Matthew 5 And verse 10.

26:50: Christ says, and why we should be excited to be in alignment with His will, Christ says, verse 10, Matthew 5, blessed.

27:00: Are they?

27:02: which are persecuted This is a blessing This is from from God's perspective, this is something we should be honored.

27:10: We should be excited about, he says, blessed are they which are persecuted, except that I, I didn't read that correctly.

27:18: Let me read it correctly.

27:20: Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

27:24: That's the persecution.

27:25: Many will be persecuted.

27:27: We need to be persecuted because we're in alignment with his will.

27:31: We, we know what is right from his perspective, and that is righteousness.

27:36: And because we are in alignment with righteousness and with his will, that's why we're persecuted and that's why we're blessed.

27:44: For theirs or ours is the kingdom of heaven.

27:48: So God is expecting us to go through this with a vision of the kingdom of heaven.

27:54: Blessed are you When men shall revile you.
 27:59: You're going to be hated.
 28:01: They're going to revile you.
 28:03: And anybody who hears any media reports about us, is their, their conclusion is, well, they deserve that.
 28:10: They're such horrible people.
 28:12: There will be a narrative around us that will make us despicable.
 28:17: They'll revile us.
 28:19: And shall say all manner of evil against you falsely.
 28:25: It's false, but you can't defend yourself.
 28:28: You have no control over the media.
 28:30: The media spins the story and the narrative any way they want, and everybody is happy for the persecution that we're facing.
 28:37: But Christ says it's false.
 28:40: If we're doing it for his sake.
 28:44: That means that we understand his purpose, we understand his vision, we understand his word, and we're not making up hallucinations and calling it the gospel.
 28:56: We're, we're preaching his gospel.
 28:58: And it's for his sake we're hated.
 29:01: He says, rejoice.
 29:04: It's, it's hard.
 29:05: We're, we're like his disciples who, when he's sharing with them what's happening, they're just mournful.
 29:11: Because they're thinking about themselves.
 29:14: Crisis say do the work.
 29:16: And have the vision.
 29:19: Understand my loyalty to you and rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven.
 29:27: And, and words fail me.
 29:28: I don't know how to articulate this, but there is a reward in heaven, and Chris Christ is the creator is saying it's great, mega for you.
 29:38: Rejoice, see past all of this.
 29:42: For so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.
 29:46: And it's funny when you meet people who want to be prophets, it's not a picnic.
 29:51: It's not a picnic.
 29:54: Unless you're a false prophet.
 29:56: And one more scripture for our setup here.
 30:00: And it's James 1.
 30:03: James 1 So we've seen that there's gonna be religious fanatics that believe they're doing him service by killing us and persecuting us, but Christ says rejoice.
 30:16: As long as you're in alignment with my will, as long as this is false and it's for my sake, for my purpose, my covenant purpose.
 30:27: James The recipient of this teaching then goes on to teach his own lessons, and he says this in verse 2, my brethren.
 30:37: Having been taught by Christ, count it all joy when you fall into different trials.

30:43: Knowing this, this is what we have to have in our minds.

30:48: That the trying of your faith works patience.

30:52: And then let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

30:59: God paid a high price for us.

31:02: There's a high purchase price that he paid for us.

31:05: But he didn't buy us.

31:08: As is You know you can go into a shop and it's a big sign as is, you buy it as it is and don't come back.

31:16: He bought us 2B.

31:19: He bought us with a vision.

31:20: Every one of us as he as he handpicked you.

31:23: He didn't he didn't handpick you as you are.

31:26: He handpicked you with his will and his vision and his hope of what you can be.

31:31: And so he brings you into his body.

31:34: And he's developing you into his vision of what you can be.

31:39: But that development requires trial.

31:43: It requires persecution.

31:45: It requires refinement, so let patience have her perfect work so that you can become the full human being that he has in mind for you so that you can become the god being.

31:57: In his family that he has in mind for you, so we are in the process of becoming Individually And collectively In fact, we cannot become fully who God has in mind for us without each other.

32:13: And that cannot endure without structural integrity.

32:19: Without, without structure, people die.

32:23: And so the vision that God has for us is phenomenal.

32:28: But we can fail each other.

32:31: There can be calculations.

32:33: that we know are wrong.

32:36: But we ignore them.

32:38: And then the whole thing collapses.

32:40: So this song, it's a very pretty song about God will see us through and everything's gonna be fine.

32:47: Which is true if there are no miscalculations.

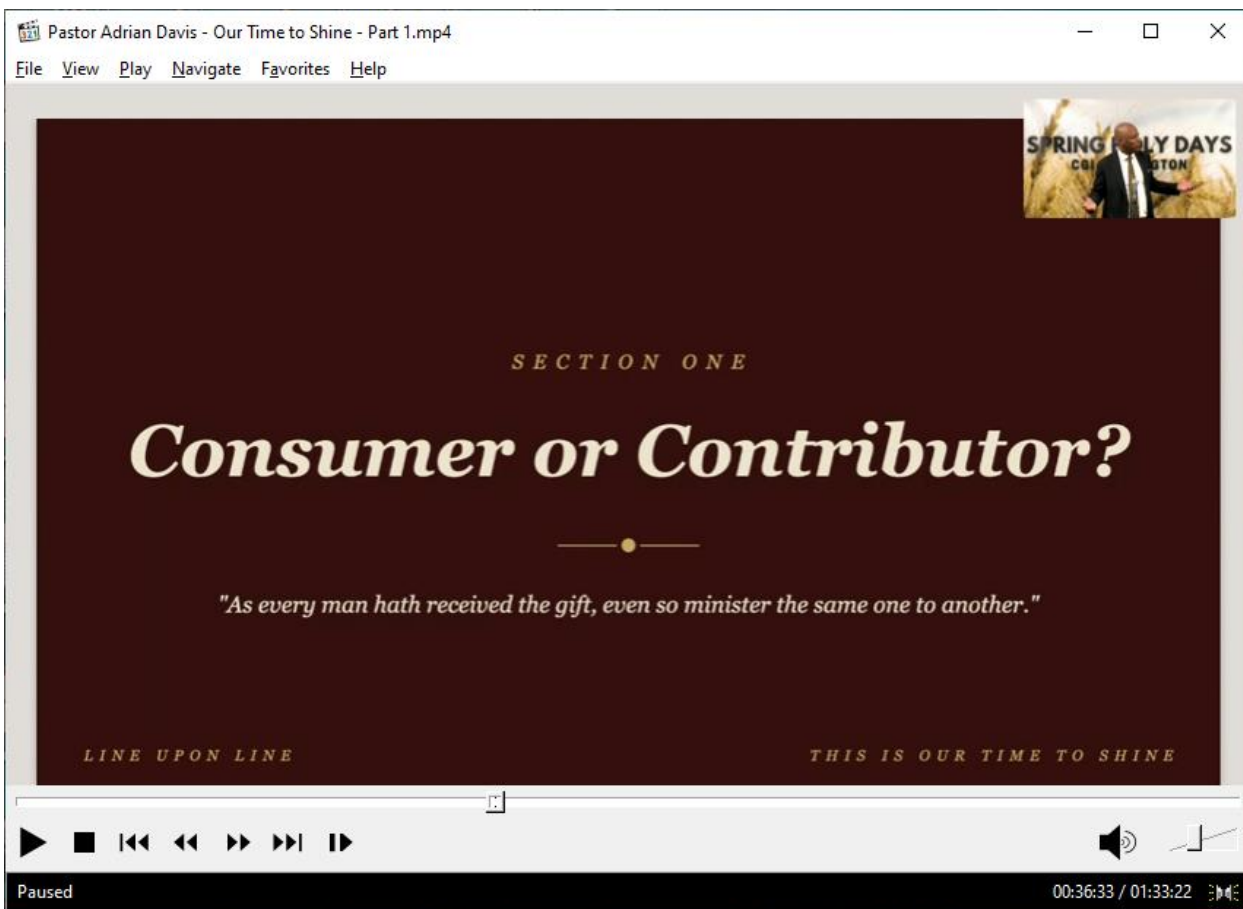
32:52: If we have flaws and we're ignoring them, it's not true.

32:56: We we we have to go through the pressure.

32:59: It's part of us individually and collectively becoming the vision that God has for us.

33:06: But if there are miscalculations, if there are flaws, and we ignore them, Sorry, The whole bridge will collapse in 15 seconds.

33:16: If I can go to my next slide.



33:18: Which begs the question, As we sit here today, Whether here physically or joining us online.

33:30: It begs the question, what kind of member are we?

33:35: What kind of Christian are we?

33:38: So as we sit here listening to this, this sermon, are we a consumer Christian?

33:44: Or a contributor Christian.

33:47: We're one or the other.

33:49: Which one is it?

33:52: Let's go to Ezekiel chapter 33.

33:55: As we try to answer this question, what kind of Christian am I?

34:03: Because God has a vision.

34:05: For us individually.

34:07: For the assembly And he paid a high price for us to become that vision.

34:14: But we cannot become that vision without each other.

34:17: Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together.

34:20: We need each other to realize the vision that God has for us.

34:24: So as we assemble together.

34:27: What kind of body part are we?

34:29: Are we a consumer Christian or a contributor Christian?

34:34: Ezekiel chapter 33.

34:37: Ezekiel chapter 33, drop down to verse 30 and look at the experience that the prophet Ezekiel had.

34:45: With his audience.

34:48: Ezekiel 33:30, also you, son of man, the children of your people still are talking against you by the walls.

35:01: And in the doors of the houses or they're talking about you by the walls.

35:06: And in the doors of the houses, and they speak one to another.

35:09: It's fellowship.

35:10: They're talking one to another.

35:14: Everyone to his brother.

35:16: Sounds so far so good.

35:18: What are they talking about?

35:20: Saying, come, I pray please come, come and hear what is the word that comes forth from Yehovah.

35:31: You gotta hear this guy.

35:32: This is amazing.

35:34: Come, come, come, listen.

35:36: You've got to hear that we're getting the word of the Lord.

35:40: And they come unto you.

35:42: As the people come And they sit before you as my people, and they hear your words, but they will not do them.

35:52: They didn't come to contribute.

35:54: They came to consume This is a cheap entertainment.

35:58: It's really nice how he weaved that message together.

36:03: They hear your words, they just won't do them.

36:07: For with their mouth, they show much love.

36:11: But their heart goes after their covetousness.

36:15: They're not growing.

36:18: Christ paid a price for us.

36:20: If we're not growing, we're sitting in human nature.

36:24: We're sitting in our carnal nature, anybody can hide carnal nature.

36:27: In fact, we all do it.

36:29: I, I don't, we, we would be rejected if everybody could see the raw human nature.

36:33: So as we try to get control over it, we have a bit of a persona.

36:40: The question is, are we really tackling the human nature?

36:44: And are we really growing into the vision God has for us, or is the whole thing theater?

36:50: Well, here the whole thing is theater.

36:54: With their mouth they show much love, but if the character, if they're covetous.

36:59: That love is fake There's a miscalculation here.

37:04: It's not going to hold up.

37:06: When this congregation faces the pressure that's coming, it's brother will betray brother, just like that, and everybody knew.

37:13: The miscalculation was there, we just didn't think it was serious because we didn't have a vision of what's coming.

37:18: The pressure that's coming And lo, verse 32, you are unto them as a very lovely song of one that has a pleasant voice.

37:30: This is amazing.

37:31: I could listen to this guy all day.

37:33: Let's come back next week, bring your friends.
 37:36: But we're not gonna do anything.
 37:38: We're not taking this seriously.
 37:41: And lo, you are unto them, as a very lovely song of one that has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument.
 37:48: There's some competence here, for they hear your words, but they do not do them.
 37:55: This is what I mean by a consumer.
 37:58: They're coming to be entertained.
 38:01: They're coming to be stimulated.
 38:05: They're they're coming to intellectually grapple with ideas, and it's stimulating, but they're not going to do anything.
 38:12: I'm just here to get If you go to the next slide.

Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 1.mp4

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TWO MODELS OF CHURCH

Household or Marketplace

THE CONSUMER MODEL	THE HOUSEHOLD MODEL
The church as a marketplace "What does this church offer me?"	The church as a family "What is my work in this body?"
ROLE Customer	ROLE Member by adoption
POSTURE Receive and evaluate	POSTURE Receive and also give
MEASURE Personal satisfaction	MEASURE Edification of the whole
WHEN HARD Shop elsewhere	WHEN HARD Forbear in love
FRUIT Spiritual atrophy	FRUIT Maturity and gifts in motion

"...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15

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38:20: What we have to ask ourselves is, what kind of congregation are we?
 38:25: What kind of congregation do we want to be?
 38:29: There's the consumer model.
 38:31: And there's the household model.
 38:34: With the consumer model, the church is a marketplace.
 38:38: It's, I'm here to get something from the church.
 38:41: With the household model, the church is a family.
 38:45: It's not like a family.
 38:47: It is a family.
 38:49: This is a household And it has structure.

38:54: And as a family, everybody has a role to play.
38:58: With the church as a marketplace, I'm the customer.
39:01: And the customer is king.
39:04: So I'm coming to hear, play a lovely song.
39:07: And if there's a better song somewhere else, well, I'll go somewhere else.
39:10: And maybe there's a bit of fine tuning you can do on that song.
39:13: I didn't like the way you hit that particular note.
39:15: Next time try a little harder.
39:17: So I'm here to receive the lovely song, and I'm going to evaluate it.
39:22: And not just the song, I'm gonna evaluate everybody.
39:25: I'm looking at the whole congregation with a very critical eye, and I'm trying to decide, are you guys good enough for me?
39:32: This is the consumer model.
39:34: With the household model.
39:37: I'm not a customer.
39:39: I've been adopted into the family.
39:41: I'm a member of the family.
39:43: I'm a member of the covenant community, and I'm not just here to receive.
39:47: And then critically judge.
39:50: It's give and receive.
39:51: It's a, it's a two-way street.
39:53: I'm blessed.
39:54: I'm edified by you.
39:56: But I also have a responsibility to edify you.
39:59: And we're edifying each other in love.
40:03: So when times get hard, when times get difficult, when, when human beings collide and have collisions and conflict, as is normal, if I'm the customer, I don't like that very much.
40:14: I'm gonna go shopping.
40:15: And find another congregation that suits me better until it doesn't, and then I'll go shopping again.
40:21: If I'm adopted into the family.
40:27: There's no shopping.
40:28: What's that saying?
40:29: Oh, you choose your friends, you don't choose your family.
40:31: I'm here.
40:33: It wouldn't even occur to me to go anywhere.
40:36: I've been brought into covenant.
40:39: Covenant is binding.
40:41: There's there's no way out of covenant.
40:44: And so I have to forbear.
40:46: In love and let patience have her perfect work.
40:52: So what is the fruit Of the consumer Christian.
40:57: Atrophy.
41:00: They're not doing anything.
41:01: They're intellectually stimulated, but they're not doing anything.

41:05: And so the muscle, the spiritual muscle atrophies.

41:08: And they become useless to God and useless to everybody.

41:11: In fact, much of the congregational problems, they're the source of.

41:17: But they would never see that.

41:19: So they project onto everybody.

41:22: Whereas the household model.

41:26: The church, the, the, the contribute the Christian as a contributor and as a mem a contributing member, what's the fruit of, of participating in the household growth.

41:38: Maturity You start to see their gifts appearing and growing and having more impact.

41:47: And as a result of their contribution, the congregation is growing into the vision that God has for us.

41:55: 1 Corinthians 11.

42:20: 1 Corinthians 11.

42:24: Verse 17, there's so much here, I just took a couple of verses.

42:30: Pulses to the Corinthian household.

42:35: Maybe I should say the Corinthian marketplace.

42:38: These were consumer Christians.

42:41: They were in it for what they can get.

42:43: And what glory they can get.

42:46: 1 Corinthians 11:17.

42:48: Now in this that I declare unto you, so he's changing the subject, so there was something that that that was praiseworthy, but now he's changing the subject.

42:56: This, I praise you not.

42:58: That you come together, not for the better, but for the worse.

43:04: So yes, we must not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

43:08: Unfortunately, congregations can find themselves in a position.

43:13: And I think we've worked hard not to be in this position, but congregations, and I've seen it, can find themselves in a position where it would be better for them to break that command.

43:22: The the lesser evil is for you not to assemble.

43:26: Because when you assemble, and you bite and devour one another, and destroy the body of Christ, It's better for you that a noose is around your neck and you're thrown into the, the sea.

43:39: So there are congregational dynamics of consumer Christianity that it's better not to assemble.

43:48: For first of all, when you come together in the church, I hear that there be heretics among you.

43:53: And I partly believe it.

43:55: Now, let's go to chapter 12.

43:59: And I've spoken about verse one before, where the translators realize that the Greek demands a noun, that spiritual is an adjective, it has to modify something, so they put in gifts.

44:12: Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant, that's a mistake.

44:17: In the context of the whole chapter, the better translation and the noun that should be supplied is now concerning spiritual members.

44:25: I would not have you ignorant.

44:27: We should be able to discern each other.

44:29: We should know who's the foot, who's the eye, who's the ear, who's the nose, who's the hand.

44:34: Don't be ignorant about where you fit and where your brethren fit in the body.

44:41: You know that you were Gentiles carried away onto these dumb idols even as you were led.

44:46: Wherefore I give you to understand that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

44:55: So there's an acid test.

44:57: We know who's who's in the body and who isn't.

45:00: Now there are diversities of gifts, but it's the same spirit.

45:04: Sometimes it's hard for us to understand each other.

45:07: Because we're looking at something from a different perspective, because we're gifted in a different way, and therefore we have a different experience.

45:15: Your gift gives you a different perspective, leads you to have different experiences, and therefore you're going to preserve a situation differently than I do.

45:24: It doesn't mean that you're accursed or I'm accursed.

45:27: We, we acknowledge Jesus is Lord.

45:31: We have the Holy Spirit.

45:33: We just have to not be ignorant of spiritual members.

45:36: And how to discern.

45:43: Verse 7 he says the manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit everyone.

45:51: This, this is, this is a A condemnation Of consumer Christianity.

45:58: If I come just to consume, this verse condemns me.

46:03: I've taken the precious spirit of God.

46:06: For which God paid a high price to give this to me, and I'm just coming here to be entertained.

46:13: I'm just logging on and watching to be entertained, but I'm still in bitter debate with my brethren.

46:19: I'm still holding grudges from decades ago.

46:22: And I can't let go, but I still take the Passover, still counting to Pentecost.

46:28: And this is saying consumer Christianity is for the world.

46:33: Here we have contributor Christians, because if you have the Holy Spirit, the reason you have it is to contribute to the body, to edify the body.

46:42: And then he goes on to explain that different members have different gifts, but verse 11, all of these different gifts in the different members, all these work that one and selfsame spirit, they're exercising the same spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

46:59: So he is watching us.

47:03: Evaluating us and then giving us spiritual capabilities based on our uniqueness.

47:11: For as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of that one body being many, are one body, this is also how Christ is.

47:20: In verse 18, this is the main thing I wanted to say.

47:24: But now You might not understand all of this and the the operation fully, but here's the conclusion of the matter.

47:31: It is God That has set you and set me as members, don't be ignorant of spiritual members, and this is the reality of spiritual members, that it is God the Father who sets the members, every one of them in the body as it has pleased him.

47:49: So we're here In CGI Burlington because it pleased God to put us here.

47:55: And our brethren who are joining us wherever you are, God has set you there.

48:01: But he didn't set us there to be as is.

48:05: It's not like, hey, here I am, take me as you find me.

48:09: He sent me here with a vision of what I can become.

48:13: And he said you here with a vision of what you can become, and then he has orchestrated it in such a way that I cannot become his vision of what he has for me, unless you become his vision of what he has for you.

48:26: The more you become who you are meant to be, the more you can help me become who I'm meant to be, the more I can help you become who you're meant to be.

48:34: It's an operation by God.

48:36: And it's spiritual and it's, it's the calculation is perfect.

48:40: If there's any miscalculation, it's us.

48:43: When we're not cooperating with this process and we ignore it because we don't think it's a big deal.

48:49: When in fact what's coming, what we are going to face as a church, what did Christ say?

48:54: That I'm telling you this ahead of time.

48:56: So that when it happens, you won't be offended.

48:59: Well, if he's telling us ahead of time, we've got to get rid of the cracks.

49:02: It's like let's have that spiritual ring on our pinky finger to remind us.

49:07: When structure is flawed, people die.

49:10: And whatever we're building here.

49:13: There are, there's a next generation that's going to inherit this.

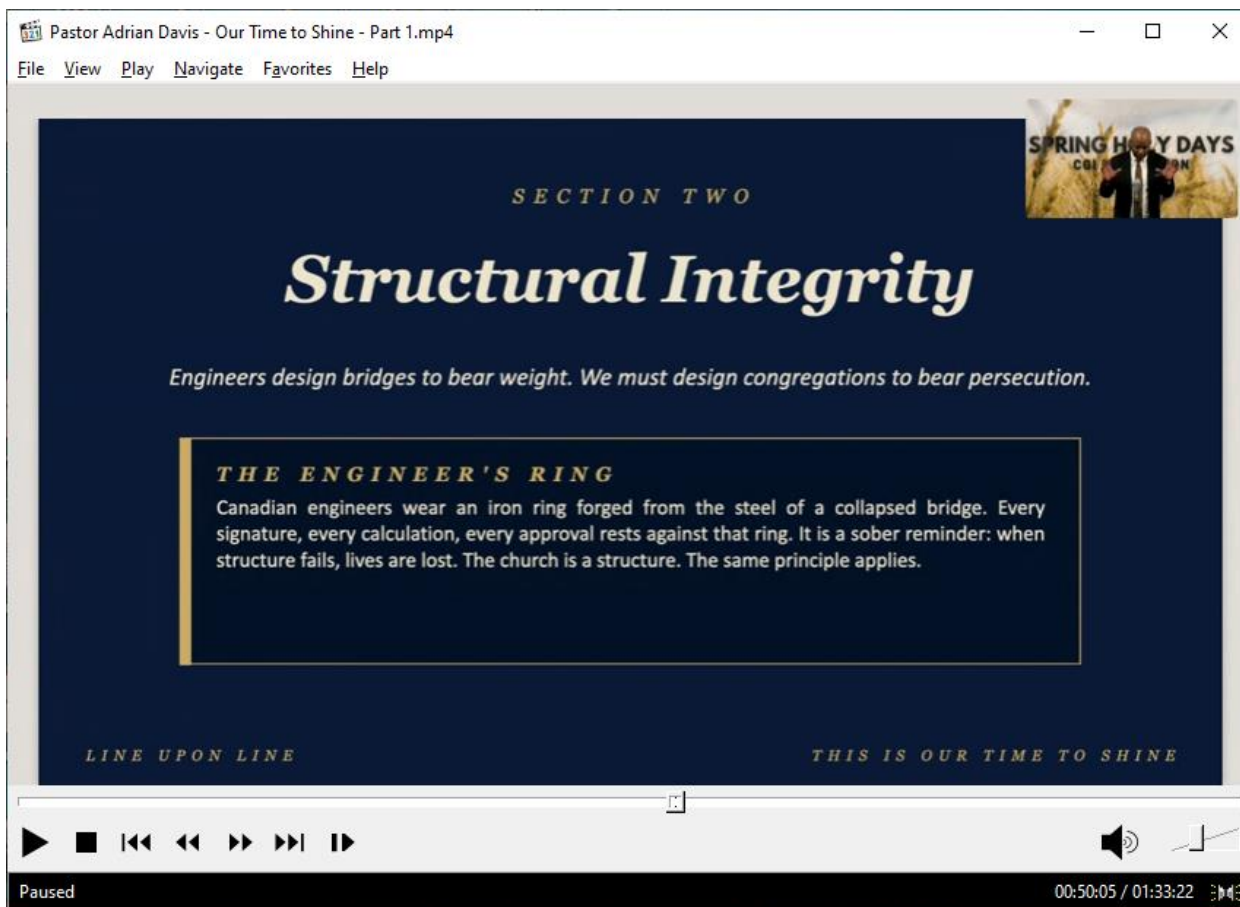
49:18: Do we give it to them with flaws?

49:20: Or do we give them a robust model and a robust structure that when they come in, they will flourish?

49:27: And they can then take this to the finish line.

49:29: Romans 12.

49:42: Let's go to the next slide.



49:48: So The spiritual engineering ring that we wear.

49:54: Is about structural integrity.

49:56: There's a way that congregations need to be structured.

50:01: And here in Romans 12, And so again You don't see the structure because it's spiritual.

50:10: But it's real.

50:12: And the consequences of having weakness in the structure is also real and devastating.

50:20: The benefits of having solid structure is as we grow into the future, we will flourish.

50:28: It will be miraculous.

50:30: People are gonna be saying like, who's behind this work?

50:33: Who are these people?

50:35: What, what, what, what size organization is doing this?

50:39: And when they find out, they'll be stunned.

50:41: They'll say that's not possible.

50:44: Not only that, they'll see a joy.

50:48: They'll see a joy in us.

50:49: Structure protects joy.

50:52: And I can, I can speak firsthand.

50:54: Because my family didn't have structure.

50:57: The structure of my family was blown apart.

51:01: And God be praised for my mother and everything that you many of you have met my mom.

51:06: beautiful woman did, did her, her, did an amazing job as a single parent.

51:12: But she was a single parent and the structure was broken.

51:16: And in our family there really was no authority.

51:20: As we grew up, as we became teenagers, there was no authority and there was no structure.

51:26: And it damaged the family.

51:29: To this day there's still some alienation in my family, but we have grown up, we've matured, and much of that alienation has been healed.

51:37: But there's, there's still a legacy.

51:40: There's still a legacy, and there are mental health issues in my family.

51:44: Because of structure being shattered.

51:48: As a young man, I gave up everything for God.

51:54: I was thinking about this the other day, that many people, they hit rock bottom and then they turn to God.

52:00: That wasn't my case.

52:02: I was in the prime of life.

52:04: I was just frustrated that nobody could tell me what the purpose of life was.

52:09: And so I, I chose to, to seek God and lose everything.

52:14: But he promises that anybody who has given up mother, father, sisters, brothers, anything for my sake, I'll restore it to him a hundredfold.

52:23: And, and this has been my experience.

52:26: That God brought my wife and I together.

52:29: Her family life is the opposite of mine.

52:32: It has structure Stability And so today, her siblings are 60, 70 years old and their structure.

52:43: Everyone can get together, not just all the siblings, but the next generation and the generation after that, all under one roof, all at peace.

52:51: And when I go there We all, all the men sit together.

52:56: So think of a dozen 14 men talking politics, and none of them agree with me.

53:02: My, my opinions are markedly different from theirs.

53:07: And this kind of talk destroys families.

53:10: Families fall apart over politics.

53:14: Not this family.

53:16: It's a hot debate.

53:18: It's sharp collisions on points of view and ideology.

53:22: And when we're done, hugs, shake hands, see you next time.

53:27: They can't wait for me to come back.

53:28: And we all sit around again and and talk.

53:32: Because there's just this structure.

53:34: And, and when I've seen maybe the two sisters, two sisters get into a bit of conflict, and one's offside, everyone rallies and says, you're offside.

53:43: Get back in line.

53:45: Because there's structure And this is a household.

53:50: It's not a blood household.

53:52: It's a spiritual household.

53:54: And if we don't have structure, we'll have my family.

53:59: No structure, chaos, mental health issues.

54:03: Alienation, disaster.

54:06: If we have structure, we can have joy.

54:09: We can have disagreement one minute and laugh and eat together the next because the structure preserves everything.

54:19: Romans 12 Verse 2, be not conformed to this world.

54:29: The consumer Christian, the get, get, get, this isn't good for me, I want it my way.

54:33: This is conforming to the world.

54:36: But be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

54:44: If our mind is contentious.

54:47: We won't accept structure.

54:48: Nobody wants to be told what to do.

54:51: But if our mind is being conformed to Christ, We can prove, we can have evidence that structure is good, that structural integrity is good.

55:01: For I say through the grace given unto me.

55:05: This again, the gift from God, this grace, to every man that is among you.

55:10: Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, and I think this is what happens when you don't have structure.

55:15: His ego gets involved, and people think of themselves more highly than they ought to, and they want to extract respect from others, and it's all kinds of chaos.

55:24: But if there's structure, we can be humble and and not see ourselves as more than the other.

55:31: But to think soberly according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.

55:38: So he has handpicked us, he's put us together.

55:42: He has, by his grace, given us gifts according to the measure of faith.

55:49: So whatever gift I have, I need to be careful.

55:54: That I don't begin to think, oh, I'm so gifted.

55:58: I'm, I'm obviously I'm better.

56:00: You, you, you don't seem to be gifted like me.

56:03: So obviously you better respect me.

56:05: Even though I'm gifted, like the Corinthians were gifted, this is satanic behavior.

56:12: And that's why Paul, speaking to such a gifted church, said, don't, don't come together.

56:18: You're so gifted, you better stay apart.

56:22: But the gift should prove to us what is that structure is good.

56:28: That structure is acceptable.

56:31: That it's, it's perfect and it's the will of God.

56:33: And that it keeps us humble.

56:36: Oh, I fit here.

56:38: And if I didn't have legs, I would be nowhere.

56:43: OK, I get it now.

56:46: For as we have many members in one body, And all members have not the same office, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

57:01: I need you as much as you need me.

57:04: And God's vision of me, full, optimized, cannot be achieved without his vision of you optimized and complete.

57:15: So we're on this journey of becoming what God has in mind, but we cannot do it alone.

57:21: I, I need you to edify me to become that, and you need me to edify you to become that.

57:29: Having then gifts, differing.

57:32: According to the grace that's given to us, we're not all the same.

57:37: So having these different gifts, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith.

57:44: Don't get outside and start doing this by ego, do it by the proportion of faith or ministry, some have the gift of service.

57:51: Where would we be if we didn't have the gift of service?

57:53: Then let us wait on our ministering.

57:56: Or he that teaches, teach.

57:58: Or he that exhorts, exhort.

58:00: He that gives, let him do it with simplicity.

58:02: He that rules with diligence.

58:06: That that can't possibly be.

58:08: Am I seeing this?

58:09: Is ruling a gift?

58:13: Does ruling bring structure?

58:15: And that's a gift And to do it with diligence.

58:21: He that shows mercy with cheerfulness.

58:24: But let love be without hypocrisy and abhor what's evil, be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love in honor, preferring one another.

58:33: So as much as we're gifted, we see the need of the other brother, the other member, and we're always esteeming the other better.

58:42: Let's go to Ephesians 4.

58:44: Sister Olivia was reading.

58:52: Ephesians 4.

59:00: And I want to make the argument now.

59:03: As we read Ephesians 4 and we've read 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12, if we put Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4 all together, The structure emerges.

59:15: That We're not a bridge.

59:18: We're a family.

59:20: We're a household But it's not chaos.

59:23: It's not anything goes.

59:25: There is a structure.

59:26: Every congregation needs to have this structure, and the argument I'm going to make is when we put Ephesians 4 with 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12, the structure is both vertical and horizontal.

59:39: Vertical and horizontal, and I'll explain what I mean as we read this passage.

59:44: Ephesians 4 And we'll break into verse 3.

59:50: Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

59:54: We need each other.

59:55: We don't want disruption.

59:57: We don't want chaos.

59:59: We're going to keep the unity of the spirit so the spirit can flourish in the bond of peace.

1:00:03: This is a covenant.
1:00:04: We're bound.
1:00:06: It's it's a binding of peace.
1:00:09: There's one body and one spirit.
1:00:11: Even as you're called in one hope of your calling.
1:00:17: God didn't purchase us as is.
1:00:21: The price he paid for us is the 2B.
1:00:25: It it's the vision that he has for us, and there's one hope of that vision, one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in you all.
1:00:38: But unto every one of us is given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
1:00:44: So, so think of it this way.
1:00:49: God has set us in the body as it pleases Him.
1:00:54: And then he has mysteriously put grace in a particular way in each one of us.
1:01:03: And it's almost like he's then saying, figure it out.
1:01:07: Because it's invisible You don't just walk in and it says, my gift is this, by God's grace, and so we just, we just have everybody understand.
1:01:17: It's like a jigsaw puzzle that we have to figure out, where do you fit.
1:01:21: Where do you fit?
1:01:23: And if we ignore this, then the grace of God is cut off.
1:01:31: Wherefore he says, when he ascended upon high, think of revelation when he goes before the throne of God, after being crucified and buried and resurrected, when he ascended upon high, he led captivity captive.
1:01:47: All of the human abuse, slave trading.
1:01:51: Rape, destruction, shattered families, all of that that Satan brought into the world, he took all of that with him.
1:01:59: When he became the perfect offering.
1:02:02: And then he, then he gave gifts unto men.
1:02:05: We've won.
1:02:07: Satan has lost, Christ has won, and in that process he's given gifts to men.
1:02:13: To fulfill his will.
1:02:20: Now he that ascended.
1:02:23: What is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?
1:02:27: In other words, God cannot ascend to heaven.
1:02:30: Unless he first descends.
1:02:33: And he's on a mission.
1:02:34: He's a god of purpose.
1:02:36: And he came to Earth with a specific purpose in mind.
1:02:39: He achieved that, and he went back to heaven and then sent down gifts to continue the purpose.
1:02:51: And as he's giving gifts.
1:02:56: To men on Earth Notice verse 11 And the argument that I'm making here This is the vertical structure.
1:03:06: 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12, that's the horizontal structure.
1:03:11: So, and both are gifts.

1:03:13: These are gifts from God.
 1:03:15: Vertical structure and horizontal structure.
 1:03:18: So we're gonna deal with vertical structure first.
 1:03:20: And he gave some, this is his gift.
 1:03:23: Upon being successful and leading captivity captive, now we're gonna vanquish
 captivity and overcome the devil, and the gift is apostles.
 1:03:34: And some profits And some evangelists.
 1:03:39: And this is how captivity is being vanquished.
 1:03:42: And some pastors and teachers.
 1:03:47: What is this vertical?
 1:03:50: Structure 400, it tells us.
 1:03:54: We don't have to guess.
 1:03:55: This vertical structure is for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry,
 for the edifying of the body of Christ.
 1:04:06: In other words, If you have a family.
 1:04:11: Like mine, that structure was shattered.
 1:04:14: There's no edification.
 1:04:16: There's competition.
 1:04:18: And rivalry.
 1:04:20: And dysfunction But if you are gifted, To have a structured family.
 1:04:27: Then there's edification and joy.
 1:04:30: So, God is giving authority to the church for the sake of edification.
 1:04:38: For how long?
 1:04:39: Until we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God
 unto a perfect man.
 1:04:46: Unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
 1:04:50: There's a vision that he has.
 1:04:52: Individually, for me, for you, for you, for you, for each of us.
 1:04:58: It's not as is.
 1:05:00: There's a vision he has for you.
 1:05:02: And there's structures in place for you to grow into that vision individually.
 1:05:07: Congregationally.
 1:05:09: And covenant community-wide.
 1:05:12: That when he appears, his, his shepherds, his saints are with him.
 1:05:16: In having achieved the vision that he had for us.
 1:05:21: And that's why this structure's here.
 1:05:24: That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every
 wind of doctrine by the slight of men and cunning craftiness.
 1:05:32: So that captivity is still here and it's trying to infiltrate, and a miscalculation will let it
 in.
 1:05:38: But it's not, it's not the intent.
 1:05:41: The intent is that we grow into this vision.
 1:05:45: By the slight men, by the slight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in
 wait to deceive.
 1:05:52: It's waiting for that moment, and in 15 seconds everything collapses.

1:05:57: It's like you, if you know there's problems in your congregation, but you look the other way.

1:06:04: Great.

1:06:04: Satan's like fantastic.

1:06:07: I could strike now, but it's not juicy enough yet.

1:06:11: Let them build themselves up a little bit more.

1:06:14: And when the moment is right, I'm going to take them out like you wouldn't believe.

1:06:18: And, and, and not only that congregation, it's going to affect other congregations as well.

1:06:24: Remember the ring.

1:06:30: Verse 15, but speaking the truth in love, speak up.

1:06:36: Hopefully you're in a congregation where you feel free to speak your mind.

1:06:39: Because if you're not There's a problem.

1:06:42: That's a miscalculation.

1:06:44: There's no way that you as an adult Christian with the Holy Spirit.

1:06:48: Feel that you can't speak your mind.

1:06:50: If that's the case, you're in the wrong, I shouldn't say you're in the wrong household, but you're in a dysfunctional household.

1:06:55: And it's your job to speak the truth in love.

1:06:59: Can I talk to you?

1:07:00: Few things I'm seeing here, I don't think it's healthy.

1:07:04: how can I help?

1:07:06: Because I'm not here to consume, I'm here to contribute.

1:07:11: So if we can speak the truth of love in love, we may grow up into him.

1:07:17: Not as is But to become So if we can speak the truth in love, let's sit down at the family table and let's have real conversations.

1:07:27: As contributors, not as consumers.

1:07:32: We may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

1:07:38: From whom the whole body fitly joined together again, it's by design.

1:07:41: He just put us here and we're figuring out how we are to be configured.

1:07:46: And compacted by that which every joint supplies.

1:07:50: When, when the grace given to you.

1:07:53: Combined with the grace given to me, we're able to supply.

1:07:58: According to the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body onto the edifying of itself in love.

1:08:06: So this now is the horizontal.

1:08:09: Structure.

1:08:10: So if you go to the next slide to show what I mean by this vertical and horizontal structure.

Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 1.mp4

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AUTHORITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Two dimensions: vertical structure, horizontal gifts

THE VERTICAL

One divine structure

Only 3 levels – 2 ordained offices

Ephesians 4:11 to 16

DIVINELY APPOINTED OFFICES

CHRIST

Head of the body

ELDERS

DEACONS

THE HORIZONTAL

Many distinct gifts

The Spirit distributes gifts severally as he wills.

1 Corinthians 12:4 to 11

BRETHREN

Each member, each gift

Teaching Hospitality Service Mercy Exhortation

HORIZONTAL - SPIRIT-GIVEN GIFTS

"He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Paused 01:08:49 / 01:33:22

1:08:17: There is one structure.

1:08:19: And the vertical structure.

1:08:22: Only on Earth only has 3 levels.

1:08:26: You've got the brethren.

1:08:28: We've got the Diakinate.

1:08:30: And we've got the eldership.

1:08:33: Under Christ So anywhere we go where we hear.

1:08:38: You know, first lady and national coordinator and regional director and pastor rank this and evangelical, and there's like multiple levels, garbage, human.

1:08:54: Human structure The organic structure is Christ.

1:09:00: Pastors Deacons with authority over the brethren.

1:09:06: And that structure is there to protect the brethren.

1:09:10: And to enable the brethren to flourish.

1:09:13: But there's another Structure of authority.

1:09:19: And it's horizontal.

1:09:21: And that, and even the elders and the deacons now fold into.

1:09:26: The level of brethren, we're all brethren.

1:09:28: And so now at the level of brethren, we have what I call functional authority.

1:09:34: So there's structural authority, and then there's functional authority.

1:09:38: Functional authority is when needed.

1:09:42: When needed, and I'll just say, my wife's a musician.

1:09:47: And when I joined the Worldwide Church of God, and then we were in Philadelphia Church of God as well, I would often observe, so she's an accompanist, and then there would be somebody leading the choir.

1:09:58: Except that they weren't leading the fire.
 1:10:01: The minister was leading the choir.
 1:10:03: Because the person who was gifted to actually lead the choir was female.
 1:10:09: She had the gift of craftsmanship and music and praise.
 1:10:13: And Jennifer's there to accompany and work with the choir, and I'd be there watching, and the minister has no clue anything about music, but has to be an authority.
 1:10:23: This, this does not make sense.
 1:10:25: That horizontal authority is, we delegate authority to the person who's gifted in that area.
 1:10:33: And we allow them to run that, and both the vertical and the horizontal reinforce each other.
 1:10:40: The vertical protects brethren from devouring each other.
 1:10:44: The vertical ensures that brethren have the opportunity to work their gifts.
 1:10:51: The horizontal will never rebel against the vertical.
 1:10:57: Because the horizontal's authority comes from the Holy Spirit.
 1:11:01: And so it protects the vertical.
 1:11:04: Because it realized that's from God.
 1:11:07: And the household will collapse on itself if we don't have it.
 1:11:11: So the vertical protects the horizontal, and the horizontal protects the vertical.
 1:11:16: Very, very difficult for us.
 1:11:19: If we go to the next slide Very difficult for us.

Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 1.mp4

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Authority Must Function

Structure is only protective when its officers actually lead

REBUKE <i>2 Timothy 4:2 · Titus 2:15</i> Preach the word. Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all authority. Let no man despise thee.	OBEY <i>Hebrews 13:17</i> Obey them that have the rule over you, for they watch for your souls and must give account.	HONOR <i>1 Timothy 5:17</i> Elders that rule well are worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.
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Christianity has been emasculated. Eldership must function: masculine strength wrapped in pastoral care.

LINE UPON LINE

THIS IS OUR TIME TO SHINE

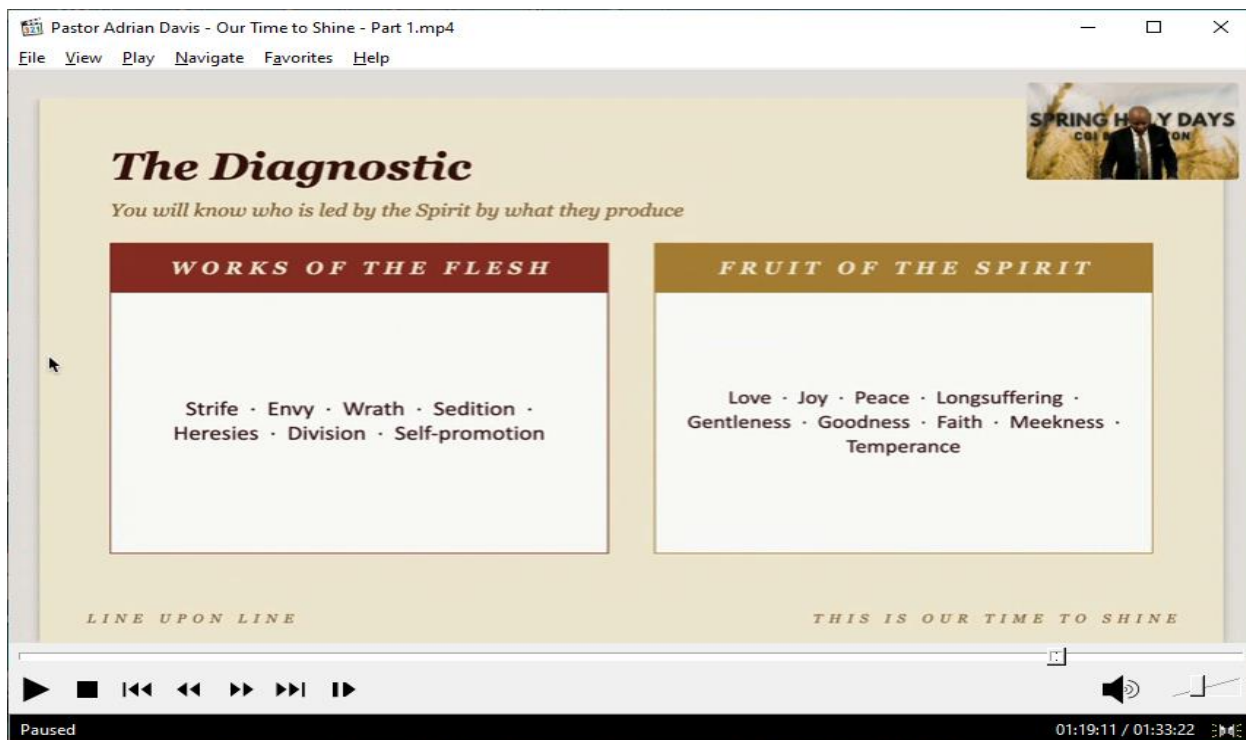
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1:11:26: Because we live in a new age.
 1:11:30: And the age that we live in.
 1:11:32: is an effeminate age.

1:11:36: We live in the age of of Ishtar.
 1:11:40: Everything has to be feminized.
 1:11:42: Masculinity is toxic.
 1:11:44: We don't want masculinity.
 1:11:46: And so men are not men anymore.
 1:11:49: And authority is frowned upon.
 1:11:52: And yet the scripture makes it clear that for the church to be healthy.
 1:11:59: The eldership with the diaconate has the authority to rebuke.
 1:12:06: Do we need to read it together?
 1:12:08: Or can we accept this?
 1:12:10: Let's, let's read it together because it's so foreign to us.
 1:12:13: It's such a strange thing.
 1:12:14: And when usually when we see.
 1:12:18: organizations that do give authority to their ministers, it's abusive.
 1:12:25: So they go, they get out of control.
 1:12:27: So how do we find this, this spiritual balance?
 1:12:31: Where Christ has the authority over the church, which he has delegated to the ministry, and the diaconate helps, and the brethren love it.
 1:12:41: Because if it has fruit, it has good fruit.
 1:12:44: 2 Timothy For And verse 2.
 1:12:52: Paul at the end of life, passing the baton to Timothy, encourages him to preach the word.
 1:12:58: The, the only way Christ's will can get into the church is through, through the word.
 1:13:04: Preach the word.
 1:13:06: Be instant, be ready, in season, out of season.
 1:13:10: reprove.
 1:13:12: Rebuke Exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.
 1:13:17: Well, if we're made up of consumer Christians, if this is a marketplace, And Timothy starts reproving and rebuking.
 1:13:26: I'm the customer here.
 1:13:27: I'm king.
 1:13:28: I'm out.
 1:13:28: I'm going to go find a place that's more to my liking.
 1:13:32: If this is a household.
 1:13:35: And Timothy's been given this authority.
 1:13:38: And something is out of line.
 1:13:40: There's a miscalculation, and he rebukes.
 1:13:43: Thank you.
 1:13:44: That's helpful Exhort with all long suffering and doctrine, don't give up.
 1:13:53: Ridding ourselves of human nature takes time.
 1:13:57: So if we're to rebuke.
 1:13:59: Then the brethren should obey.
 1:14:03: Hebrews 13.
 1:14:10: So very clearly there are lines of authority in a healthy church.
 1:14:14: If we want to be a dysfunctional church, Then that's a different matter.

1:14:24: Hebrews 13 Verse 17 Huh Obey them that have the rule over you.
 1:14:35: How about that?
 1:14:38: Where did that come from?
 1:14:39: How's, how does that work?
 1:14:41: Unless there is a vertical structure.
 1:14:45: There are lines of authority.
 1:14:48: And when the Spirit by God's grace is working, If that spirit, if that authority is coming from Christ, then Christ would never call Christ accursed.
 1:15:00: I would never receive that authority and say it's from the devil.
 1:15:05: If the Holy Spirit is in me.
 1:15:07: I would see that authority and welcome it and protect it.
 1:15:11: Because that's what keeps the family healthy.
 1:15:14: And flourishing, obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves.
 1:15:19: Now, if we're Holy Spirit minded, we know that this is not saying, and whatever they tell you to do, you better do it.
 1:15:27: Because I'm just handing you over to them.
 1:15:29: No.
 1:15:31: Because I have the Holy Spirit, because I'm gifted with the Holy Spirit, nobody, absolutely, there's no human being on the planet.
 1:15:39: That has the authority to tell me to go against my conscience.
 1:15:43: To tell me to go against the word of God.
 1:15:45: They just don't have that authority.
 1:15:47: The authority that elders have is to shepherd us within the will of God.
 1:15:52: And having the Holy Spirit, I can tell the difference.
 1:15:55: And happy to comply when everything is within God's will.
 1:15:59: And as pressure comes upon us, we have to trust each other.
 1:16:04: There are times we're going to have to pivot on a dime.
 1:16:07: The way the world is today, it's, it's going to be different.
 1:16:11: A big change is coming.
 1:16:13: And sometimes decisions have to be made fast.
 1:16:16: And if there's no trust, we can't do that.
 1:16:19: So we spin around in circles and we're in trouble.
 1:16:25: Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves.
 1:16:27: Why?
 1:16:28: For they watch for your souls.
 1:16:31: As they that must give account.
 1:16:35: This is a heavy, heavy burden.
 1:16:37: But let them do it with joy.
 1:16:40: A happy household, everyone is happy.
 1:16:44: Joy spreads.
 1:16:47: Not with grief.
 1:16:49: It's like I give up.
 1:16:53: Do it your way, OK, whatever.
 1:16:55: I'll just show up.
 1:16:55: Let's, let's all just go to the consumer model, and then we're all destroyed.

1:17:00: As opposed to joy, let's do this.
 1:17:03: Let's grow together.
 1:17:05: And not with grief, because that's unprofitable for you.
 1:17:09: In other words, this is a disaster.
 1:17:11: 15 seconds, everything is done.
 1:17:13: It's unprofitable.
 1:17:14: It's a kind way of saying you're destroying yourselves.
 1:17:21: 1 Timothy 5.
 1:17:36: 1 Timothy 5.
 1:17:44: And verse 17 Again, ver versus the Bible showing vertical structure.
 1:17:50: Let the elders that rule well.
 1:17:53: Be counted worthy of double honor.
 1:17:56: So elders can rule.
 1:17:59: But maybe they're not really gifted in that area, and so they're not ruling well.
 1:18:04: And then you might have an elder that actually is gifted in this area and passionate and ruling well.
 1:18:10: Well, if you find that, that elder should be counted worthy of double honor.
 1:18:15: Especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.
 1:18:20: Because that's the only way God's mind can get into the body.
 1:18:25: is through the word But brother, you know You don't just say, oh, let me just spin up a sermon.
 1:18:32: It takes work and not everybody's willing to do the work.
 1:18:40: Especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.
 1:18:43: Let's show of just the last slide.
 1:18:49: And so, We need to be able to just run a a a a a discernment, a diagnostic.
 1:18:57: As we look at our culture.
 1:19:02: I'm just waiting for the next slide.



1:19:04: It's coming eventually.

1:19:07: It's frozen.

1:19:08: OK.

1:19:09: That's fine.

1:19:11: So we have to, we have to discern.

1:19:13: The gifts within each other.

1:19:17: And then based on the gifts we see.

1:19:20: What role should we be playing?

1:19:22: And that's what I want to talk about next week is the work.

1:19:26: Of the congregation.

1:19:28: So I want to appeal to all of the congregations out there that are listening to us.

1:19:34: I want to disabuse you of the notion.

1:19:38: That the purpose of a congregation is to come together and sit for 2 hours and consume.

1:19:44: To listen to a lovely song and then go home.

1:19:48: That actually we are working units.

1:19:51: And the purpose of a congregation is to grow in strength and grace and knowledge to do greater work.

1:20:00: This is a working unit and we have other working units out there, and we need structural integrity to be infused with the Holy Spirit & not overtaken with the works of the flesh

1:20:12: So that we can grow together in love and do the work, which so much is gonna be required of us.

1:20:20: The world is changing rapidly.

1:20:21: I know it doesn't seem like it, but it is.

1:20:25: It's like you have a current and then you have an undercurrent, and the undercurrent is running really fast, but it doesn't look like it on the surface.

1:20:34: So you jump in the water and the undercurrent grabs you and you're gone.

1:20:38: Well, it's like that.

1:20:38: There's a current and everything kind of seems the same in the West, but there's this undercurrent that's moving rapidly.

1:20:46: And we need to be prepared for that, so.

1:20:50: What I wanted to talk about today.

1:20:52: In preparation for Pentecost is the need for structural integrity in our relationships.

1:21:01: And that structural integrity is both vertical and horizontal.

1:21:06: Gifts must be recognized.

1:21:08: And gifted brethren authority must be delegated to them.

1:21:13: And if they are healthy and mature, when authority is delegated, the body will be edified.

1:21:21: If we delegate authority and we start seeing works of the flesh, then like Corinth, ego is getting involved and we need to pull that authority back.

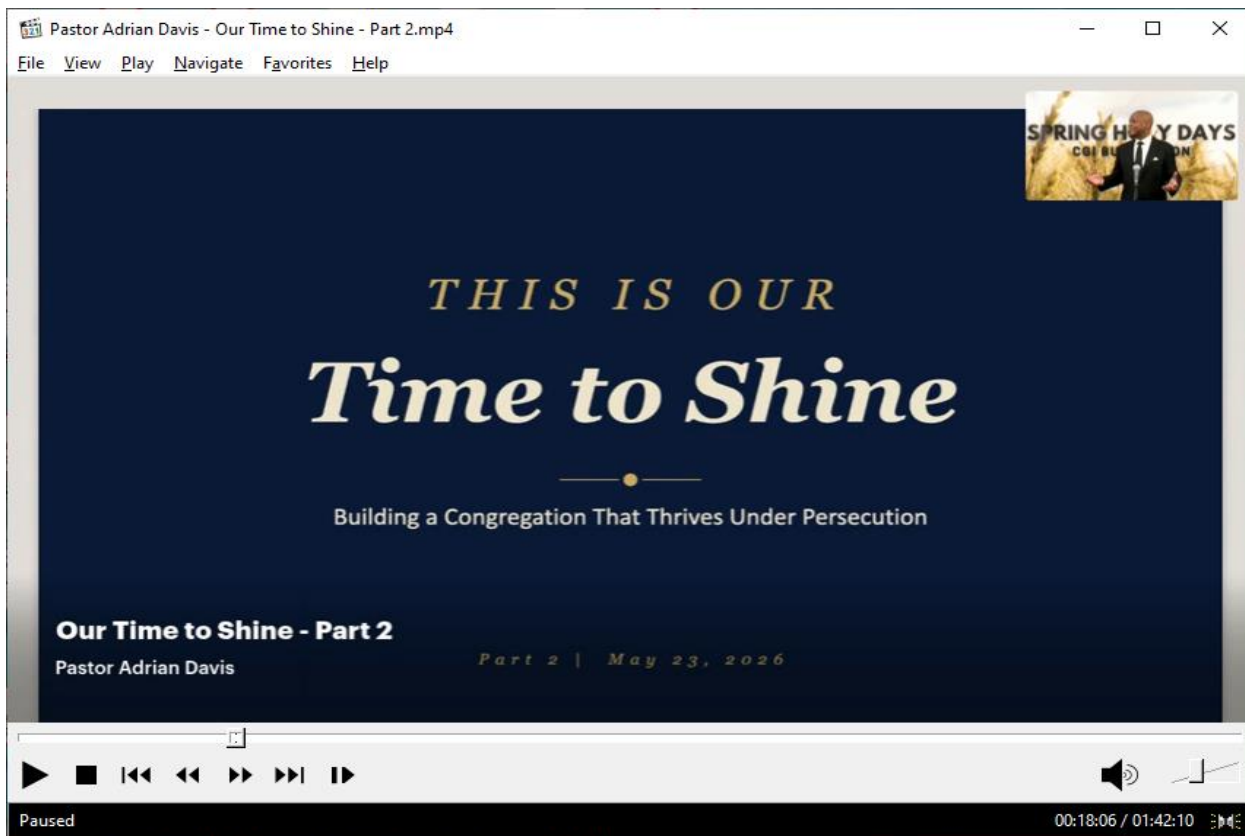
1:21:29: But we need the vertical in the vertical authority to oversee the horizontal authority.

1:21:35: So thank you brethren.

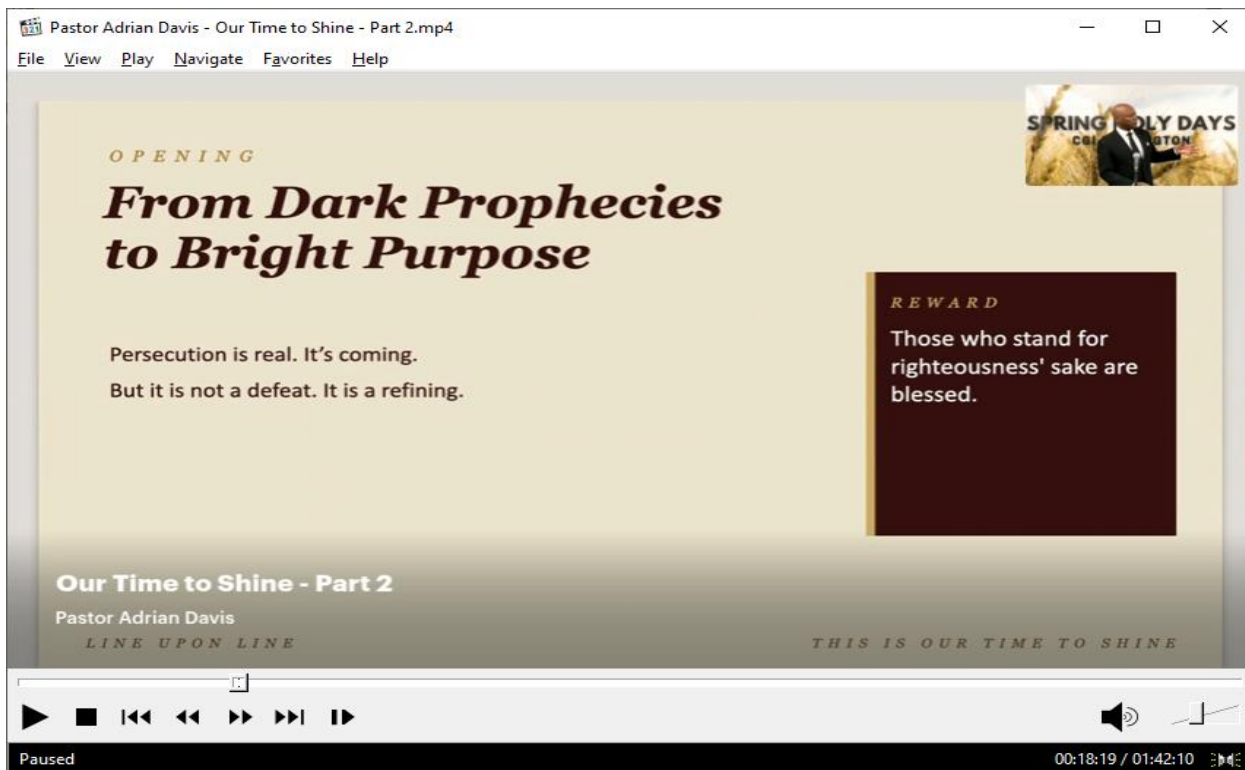
1:21:36: Hopefully this is digestible, because I want to build on it next week when we talk about the power of the Holy Spirit to do the work of God in a changing world.

Our Time to Shine - Part 2 - Adrian Davis

Transcript - Part 2



17:55: Last week, we covered part one of this is our time to shine, and this week we go to the second slide.



18:05: It's just the slide I put up last week.

18:09: Are we able to put that up?

18:11: And What what inspired me.

18:16: To do the message last week with the previous two weeks, where we were looking at the beast in the Middle East in prophecy, and and when we face those prophetic texts head on.

18:29: It's dark.

18:31: It's a period of darkness coming on the earth, particularly on Jerusalem, particularly on the covenant people, including us, including ourselves.

18:42: And while that can be discouraging, It dawned on me that this is our time to shine.

18:50: This is The time when we get to show God who we are, what we believe, how committed we are to His covenant, and there's a very bright future for us.

19:01: In, in, in fact, the dark period tests us and reveals our character.

19:06: It tests us and it reveals our faithfulness.

19:10: So we should, we should go into the future, committed, let me say enthusiastic, certainly determined.

19:18: Because this is our time to shine.

19:20: I just want to just quickly go through some of the slides that I showed last week, just to, as a refresher, before we get into the topic this week.

19:28: You remember, I talked about consumer or contributor, which is the, the next slide, that as Christians, we have a choice how we show up.

19:37: And, and actually we'll go to the next slide where I, I talked about this sort of consumer or, or marketplace Christianity versus the church as a family.

Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 2.mp4

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TWO MODELS OF CHURCH

Household or Marketplace

THE CONSUMER MODEL	THE HOUSEHOLD MODEL
The church as a marketplace "What does this church offer me?"	The church as a family "What is my work in this body?"
ROLE Customer	ROLE Member by adoption
POSTURE Receive and evaluate	POSTURE Receive and also give
MEASURE Personal satisfaction	MEASURE Edification of the whole
WHEN HARD Shop elsewhere	WHEN HARD Forbear in love
FRUIT Spiritual atrophy	FRUIT Maturity and gifts in motion

"...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15

Paused 00:20:32 / 01:42:10

19:47: And as a household.

19:48: And so how do we show up?

19:50: Certainly we're going to receive, you're, you're receiving right now as I give the message or whoever the speaker is when you attend, and so we receive messages, we receive fellowship, we receive prayer.

20:04: there's a lot that we receive as members of the covenant community.

20:08: The question is, what else do we do with the reception.

20:12: If we give back, then clearly we understand this is a household, it's a family, everybody benefits from the family, but everybody does chores, everybody has a place in the family, and so it's give and take.

20:25: If, however, we are consumers, then we receive and we evaluate.

20:31: We're consumers and critics.

20:33: It's like, hey, that wasn't quite up to my expectation, and I quoted the scripture in Ezekiel, where they were just receiving from Ezekiel, and they thought that the way he crafted his messages was brilliant.

20:43: They loved it, but they weren't going to do anything about it.

20:46: They're they're just evaluating him and and would like him to entertain them.

20:50: So I think that's a really important distinction.

20:52: And a decision that we have to make.

20:56: How do we show up?

20:58: And then we talked about the, the, the engineer's ring and structural integrity.

21:04: That in 2007, these Canadian engineers working in Quebec on a bridge, they knew there were flaws in their calculations.

21:13: They chose to ignore the flaws.

21:16: And in 15 seconds, in 15 seconds, the bridge collapsed and 75 construction workers lost their lives.

21:25: And 9 years later, in 1916, the same thing happened.

21:30: And so in 1925 they started a What do you call this, a tradition.

21:38: Where whenever engineers would graduate, they would be given an iron ring and they were to wear it on the pinky finger of their dominant hand.

21:48: So as they're approving drawings, as they're drawing, the ring would scrape and remind them of the disaster and remind them of the importance of structural integrity.

21:58: That we are construction workers, we are builders, and if we don't care about structural integrity, when pressure is put on the bridge that we are building from here to the kingdom, it'll collapse, lives will be lost.

22:11: Structure matters.

22:13: And so if we go to the next slide.

Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 2.mp4

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AUTHORITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Two dimensions: vertical structure, horizontal gifts

THE VERTICAL
One divine structure
 Only 3 levels – 2 ordained offices

DIVINELY APPOINTED OFFICES

CHRIST
 Head of the body

ELDERS

DEACONS

THE HORIZONTAL
Many distinct gifts
 The Spirit distributes gifts severally as he wills.

BRETHREN
 Each member, each gift

Teaching Hospitality Service Mercy Exhortation

HORIZONTAL - SPIRIT-GIVEN GIFTS

"He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Paused 00:22:55 / 01:42:10

22:16: I introduced the notion of Christ, the elders and deacons, and then the brethren, that that we have horizontal structure and we have vertical structure.

22:30: And we need both.

22:32: And in fact, the vertical structure collapses into The horizontal structure.

22:37: Christ Himself says he's not afraid or not ashamed to call us brethren.

22:42: The elders are not over the brethren in the sense that we're superior, we're brethren too.

22:48: We're we're all brethren, including Christ, and so the horizontal structure is real.

22:54: And we have authority functionally.

22:57: That the way we show up, the way God equips us, endows us with gifts, gives us authority in those areas.

23:07: That if somebody is more gifted than I am in a certain area, I should not be envious about that.

23:14: I should not feel defensive about that.

23:16: This person is outshining me in their area of giftedness.

23:20: Rather than being defensive, I should rejoice.

23:24: That God is gifting not the individual, but the brethren through the individual.

23:30: And so in that particular area, we need to delegate authority.

23:34: So there's functional authority within the church, and I, I just want to really emphasize this because For too long, in my walk, I have seen this dysfunction where brethren just show up.

23:49: What is it?

23:49: Pay and pray.

23:50: You have no value, you have no authority, you're not, you're treated like a child, and you just show up and do as you're told.

23:58: I like, I, how can that be?

24:00: Take the spiritual element away, just as a human being.

24:05: With the faculties that we have.

24:08: When you've been around the earth for decades, how is it that you're treated like a child and how is it that you allow yourself, or we allow ourselves to be treated like children.

24:16: There should be a dignity in being human.

24:20: And how much more in the Church of God.

24:23: There should be a dignity when we acknowledge that we are made in the image and likeness of God.

24:30: And we should rise before the horihad.

24:32: We should acknowledge the dignity of being made in the image and likeness of God.

24:39: Now That said, There is vertical structure as well.

24:45: That Christ has given us a vertical structure.

24:48: And generally again in my walk I've seen these two extremes sort of swing from one extreme to the other.

24:54: We overcorrect.

24:56: So typical extreme in any sort of hierarchy is abuse.

25:01: And, and it's like, you know, there's this levels of hierarchy and, and human beings behave very weird in hierarchy.

25:09: Like there's something that comes over us, and we become sycophants to whoever's above us.

25:15: And there's this kiss up, kick down where we try to please people above us and then we abuse people below us.

25:21: It's a sickness that happens inside hierarchy, and I think Satan knows that.

25:25: And so the hierarchy within the church is carefully constructed.

25:30: It's carefully constructed, and there's only one.

25:33: Anything that deviates from this is man-made.

25:37: And it will not hold up to the pressure that's going to be put on the church because it's man-made.

25:43: The only structure that will hold up is this one.

25:47: There's Christ Who's over the shepherds or the under shepherds, deacons, and then brethren.

25:55: That's it.

25:56: Anything else is made up.

25:58: And in fact, this vertical structure protects, nourishes, and develops the horizontal structure.

26:09: And those in the horizontal structure who are truly spirit-filled, they protect, nourish and defend the vertical structure.

26:19: Both structures come from the Holy Spirit.

26:21: Both structures come from God, and they protect and reinforce each other.

26:25: And this is the structural integrity of the church.

26:29: Hopefully of your congregation, hopefully of our congregation.

26:32: And my point from last week is this.

26:35: That if we don't have, develop and protect this structure.

26:41: We're not going to survive what's coming.

26:44: Those dark prophecies that we read of, that we know are coming, as sure as the sun will rise tomorrow, that darkness is coming, absolutely.

26:53: If we don't have this structure and have it in a healthy way, we're not gonna survive.

26:58: What's coming is too intense.

27:01: And so in 15 seconds everything will be lost.

27:05: The next slide I shared that.

The screenshot shows a video player window titled "Pastor Adrian Davis - Our Time to Shine - Part 2.mp4". The slide content is as follows:

Authority Must Function
Structure is only protective when its officers actually lead

REBUKE <i>2 Timothy 4:2 · Titus 2:15</i>	OBEY <i>Hebrews 13:17</i>	HONOR <i>1 Timothy 5:17</i>
Preach the word. Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all authority. Let no man despise thee.	Obey them that have the rule over you, for they watch for your souls and must give account.	Elders that rule well are worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

Christianity has been emasculated. Eldership must function: masculine strength wrapped in pastoral care.

LINE UPON LINE THIS IS OUR TIME TO SHINE

The video player interface includes a menu bar (File, View, Play, Navigate, Favorites, Help), a play/pause button, a progress bar, and a timestamp of 00:27:42 / 01:42:10.

27:11: If we overcorrect where we've seen abuse, and so now we're like nobody's going to tell me what to do, you're not the boss of me, right?

27:18: We, if we develop that sort of attitude now, we, we can't function as a church.

27:22: And in fact evidence that there is authority that ministers must not be limp wristed.

27:28: Ministers must not be weak.

27:32: Ministers must have backbone and strength.

27:36: And not be effeminate.

27:37: We must be masculine.

27:39: We must provide masculine leadership to the household.

27:42: Evidence of that is the instruction to rebuke.

27:48: If you don't have authority, you cannot rebuke.

27:51: You can ask permission, but you can't rebuke.

27:54: And if you can't rebuke, you cannot be led by the spirit.

27:59: At the same time, brethren are told to obey.

28:03: That there are those who have the rule over us.

28:06: And we are asked to obey.

28:08: And it's not a cult And again, it's, it's not like we're asking you to stop being an adult, and as soon as you walk into your congregation, you have to become an infant and a juvenile.

28:19: You come into your congregation.

28:23: As a king, as a priest, as a future, as royalty.

28:27: And with dignity.

28:28: And how we interact with each other is with dignity.

28:32: And there's an acknowledgement of our roles.

28:35: And yet there has to be authority.

28:38: And so the brethren understand this and rejoice in it and are happy to do so.

28:44: And, and when it works well, we thrive.

28:47: When it doesn't work well, we're grieved and everything begins to fall apart.

28:52: And instead of doing great work with joy.

28:56: We start to bicker and just unravel.

28:59: And so we should be honoring this structure.

29:03: So that was a quick recap of what I spoke about last week.

29:09: And my main point, brethren, and and those online in, in your congregations.

29:16: My point is this Pressure is coming.

29:21: We had a dry run.

29:22: COVID-19 was a dry run.

29:25: Black Lives Matter was a dry run.

29:28: And I have to say I'm deeply discouraged by how we conducted ourselves through those tests.

29:34: In my view, we failed.

29:37: Collectively Not saying across the board everybody was horrible, but There was enough for me to say, yikes.

29:47: I'm concerned Because that's nothing.

29:51: Compared to what's coming.

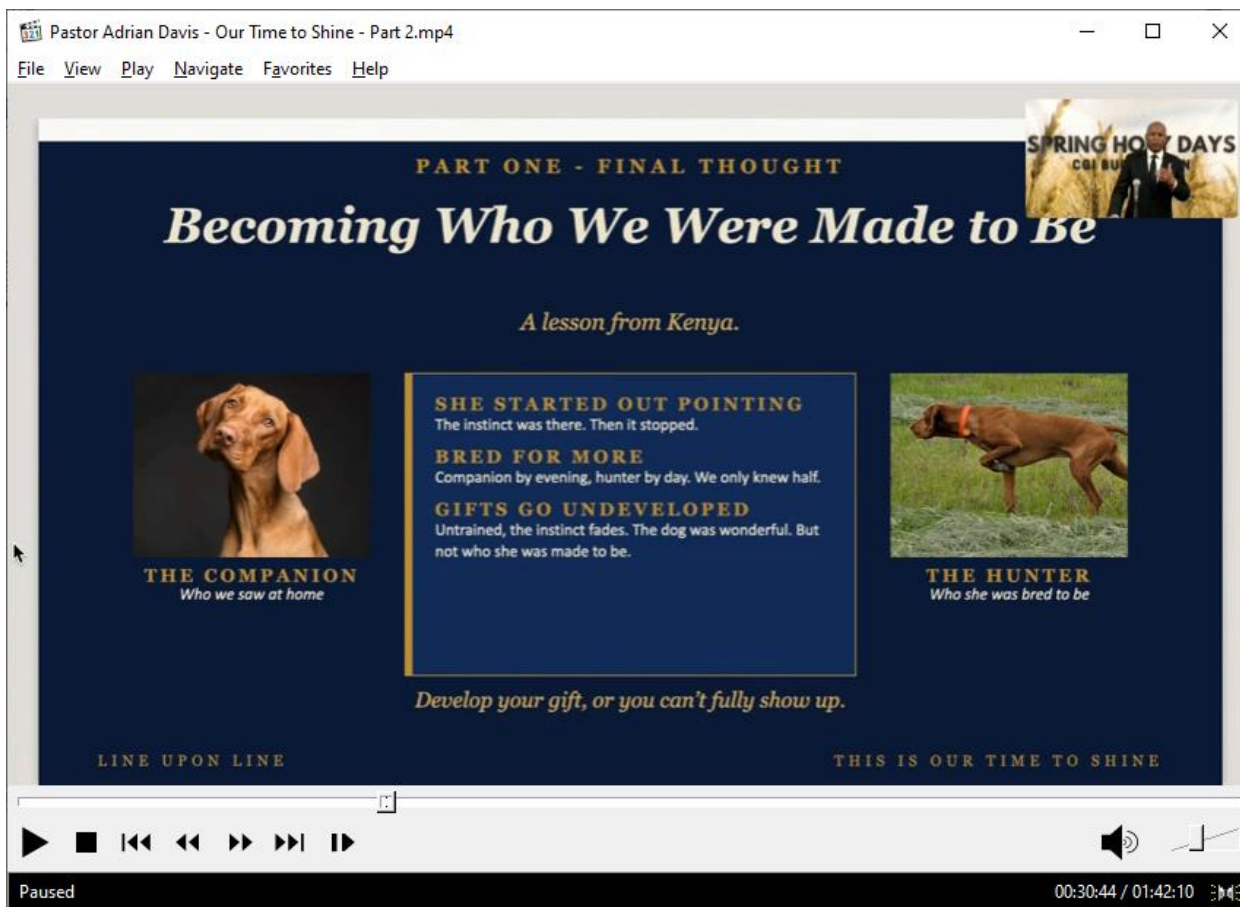
29:52: And it revealed flaws in the structure.

29:56: It revealed flaws in the structural integrity, so that that.

30:02: Ring that iron ring is scraping.

30:06: And it's reminding me of the disaster that follows when we don't have structural integrity.

30:12: I want to add just one more slide.



30:15: To my topic last week.

30:18: And We had a dog.

30:22: Her name was Kenya.

30:23: Some of you may have met her.

30:26: she was a, a, a wonderful family pet.

30:31: I did a lot of research when we decided we would get a dog for the family.

30:36: And through a lot of research, I ended up with Avisla to say we're going to get Avijla, so we went to the breeder.

30:43: And wonderful breeder, lived in the country, had horses, everything, and had a good reputation, and so we decided we would, we would get a dog from this breeder.

30:52: Well, because we were early, I got the pick of the litter.

30:56: So when the litter was born, we went up there and they were all there, they had different labels on them, and I saw one lively one of all of them, Clearly the strongest one, and I said I wanted that one.

31:11: And the breeder looked at me and my whole family was there, and she looked at the kids and she said, this one is not for you.

31:18: And she chose another one for us.

31:20: And I was disappointed.

31:22: I thought I, I want the one that's clearly the healthiest one.

31:25: And she said, no, this is the one for you.

31:28: So we, we, we took her advice and then we would visit.

31:31: We, we couldn't get her right away.

31:32: I think she had to be maybe 2 or 3 months old before we could get her.

31:37: Maybe a little bit older actually, but anyway, when we finally went to get her, a couple of visits we had.

31:42: They would take these dogs out hunting.

31:45: On their horses.

31:47: And the dogs would run with the horses.

31:49: And Kenya, our dog was always first.

31:53: Even though she wasn't the strongest when she was born, she had the, the fight in her, and she always had to be out front, and they told us that.

32:01: So we, we took her.

32:03: And she grew up with the family.

32:05: Now these dogs are bred for two purposes.

32:09: Number one, they're bred to hunt.

32:11: So in the day, they are phenomenal hunters.

32:13: They're bird bird dogs.

32:15: And when the when the hunter is looking for the the bird, when they find the bird, they point.

32:20: And the way they point is their tail goes straight back and they pick up a leg and and they just they're, they just, they're just frozen, and they point, just like that you see in the picture.

32:30: So when we got her, she would do this.

32:34: like a bird and she would just freeze and point.

32:37: We, we didn't care.

32:39: That's not what we bought her for.

32:40: We bought her as a family pet.

32:42: So they're bred to hunt in the day and then be a companion in the night.

32:47: So they're designed to be great family, family pets, which she was.

32:51: She was a phenomenal dog.

32:53: We had her for 15 years.

32:55: Upon reflection What I can say is this, and so every Sunday I was, I was a runner back then, and that's why I looked for this dog.

33:03: Every Sunday I would take her for a long run, and we'd be out running for a couple of hours, and when she came back she was just, just resting the rest of the day.

33:10: So she really loved that, and she'd be off leash running around.

33:14: And so we saw a part of Kenya.

33:17: But we really didn't see Kenya.

33:19: She tried to show us who she was.

33:22: We didn't care.

33:24: Cause I'm not, I'm not a hunter But I realize if I was a hunter, Kenya would have grown into her full identity.

33:33: And me as a hunter, I would have grown into mine.

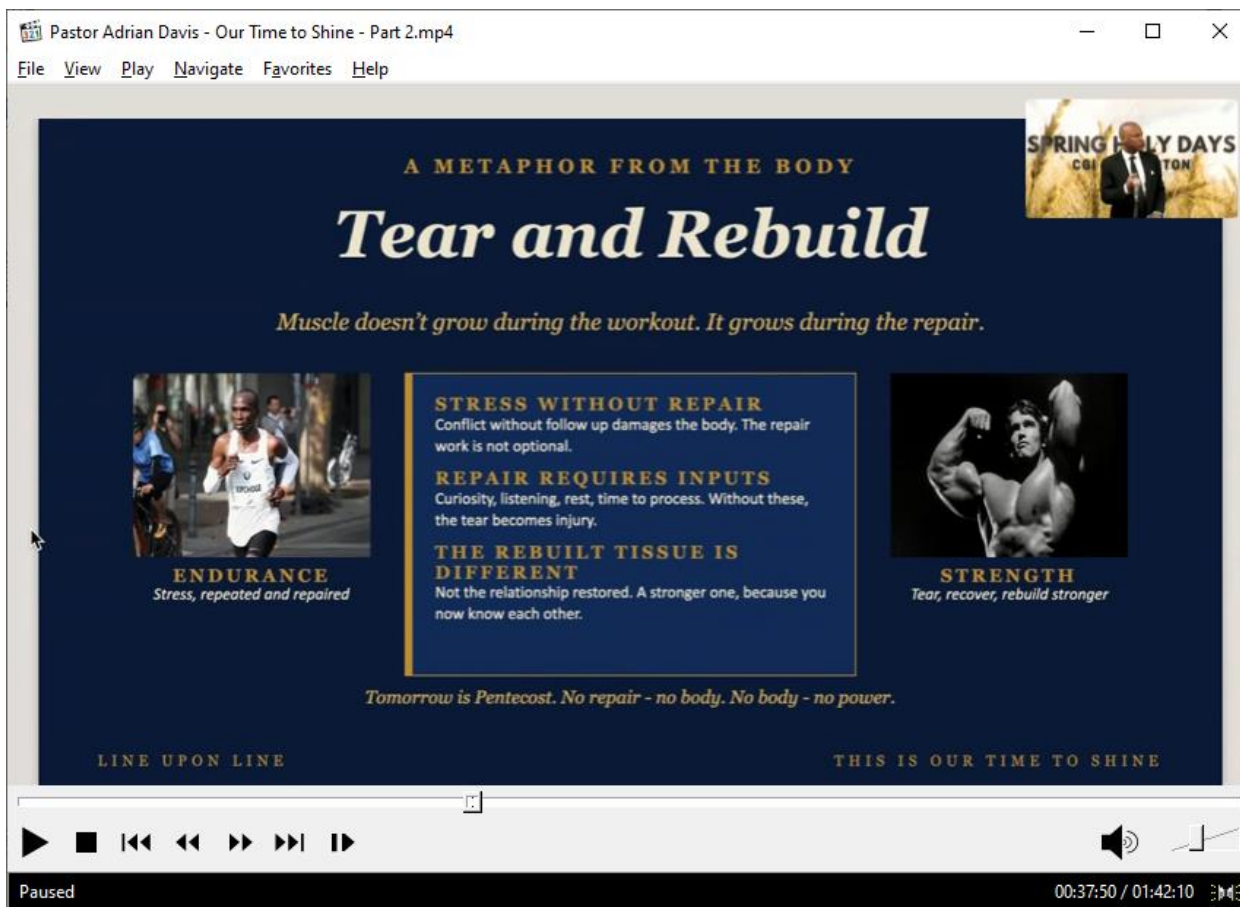
33:36: That the better hunter, the better bird dog and pointer she was, the better hunter I'd become.

33:41: The better hunter I became, the better bird dog she'd become.

33:45: And so we would have reinforced our, say, the fullness, full expression of our identity.

33:52: And it struck me this is not unlike the church.

33:57: That God has gifted you with, let's call it a spiritual instinct.
34:02: There's something in you by design.
34:05: Like Kenya.
34:07: And that's meant to complement something in me, something in you.
34:13: And the more you develop and express your gift, the more we can develop and express ours.
34:19: But it's possible That we can be together for decades and go into the grave and never fully express who we are.
34:28: And, and so we're never fully known.
34:31: And as a result, others are not able to fully develop and express who they are.
34:36: So, I would really like to encourage all of us.
34:41: Identify your gift.
34:44: Commit to developing and expressing it.
34:46: Show us who you are.
34:48: So that we can become who we are.
34:51: And together we can grow into our full identity.
34:55: So with that, let's go to part two, and we're going to go to Hebrews 10.
34:58: We're going to open in Hebrews 10.
35:09: In part one, I wanted to emphasize the importance of structure.
35:19: And I'm emphasizing the importance of structure for two reasons.
35:24: Number one We cannot bear a load.
35:29: We cannot, we cannot bear weight like that, that bridge in Quebec.
35:33: We cannot carry weight or withstand pressure if we don't have godly structure.
35:39: We can have structure, but if it's not godly, it'll last for a while, but it's not designed to withstand what's coming.
35:48: The only structure that can that can withstand what's coming is godly structure.
35:53: So we have to work hard to have this godly structure.
35:58: Number 2.
36:00: And this is very important as we head into Pentecost and our observance of Pentecost.
36:05: Without godly structure, the force of the Spirit, the the power of the Spirit cannot flow through us.
36:12: If, if we're going to have human structure, man-made structure, it's going to block the flow of the Holy Spirit.
36:21: Does that make sense?
36:22: That if we have godly structure, not only can we withstand pressure from outside, but the reason we can withstand pressure from outside is because of the free flowing of the spirit on the inside.
36:34: So we, we harm ourselves if we don't embrace godly structure.
36:40: Now, let's go to the slide Tear and rebuild.



36:44: You're going to see 2 athletes on this slide.

36:54: And then you'll see the point that I'm making here.

36:56: The first athlete is a man called Elliot Kipchogi.

37:01: He is famous for being the first man to run a marathon in under 2 hours.

37:10: People didn't believe it could be done.

37:11: But he did it The one on the right, I think everybody's familiar with, Arnold Schwarzenegger, famous for his bodybuilding prowess.

37:22: One is known for endurance, the other is known for strength.

37:26: Both of these athletes understand.

37:29: That muscles get stronger.

37:32: The fibers are able to endure stress longer.

37:35: They grow bigger.

37:37: When they're torn down And so they both understand that training tears the muscle.

37:45: Rest repairs it.

37:48: But when it's being repaired, it's repaired stronger than what it was before.

37:54: Because the fact that it tore down realizes, oh no, we need to be stronger.

37:58: But the DNA doesn't say, well, we're torn down, let's go, let's go separate ways.

38:04: And that's what I want to look here at Hebrews 10.

38:07: Hebrews 10.

38:09: And verse 24, he says.

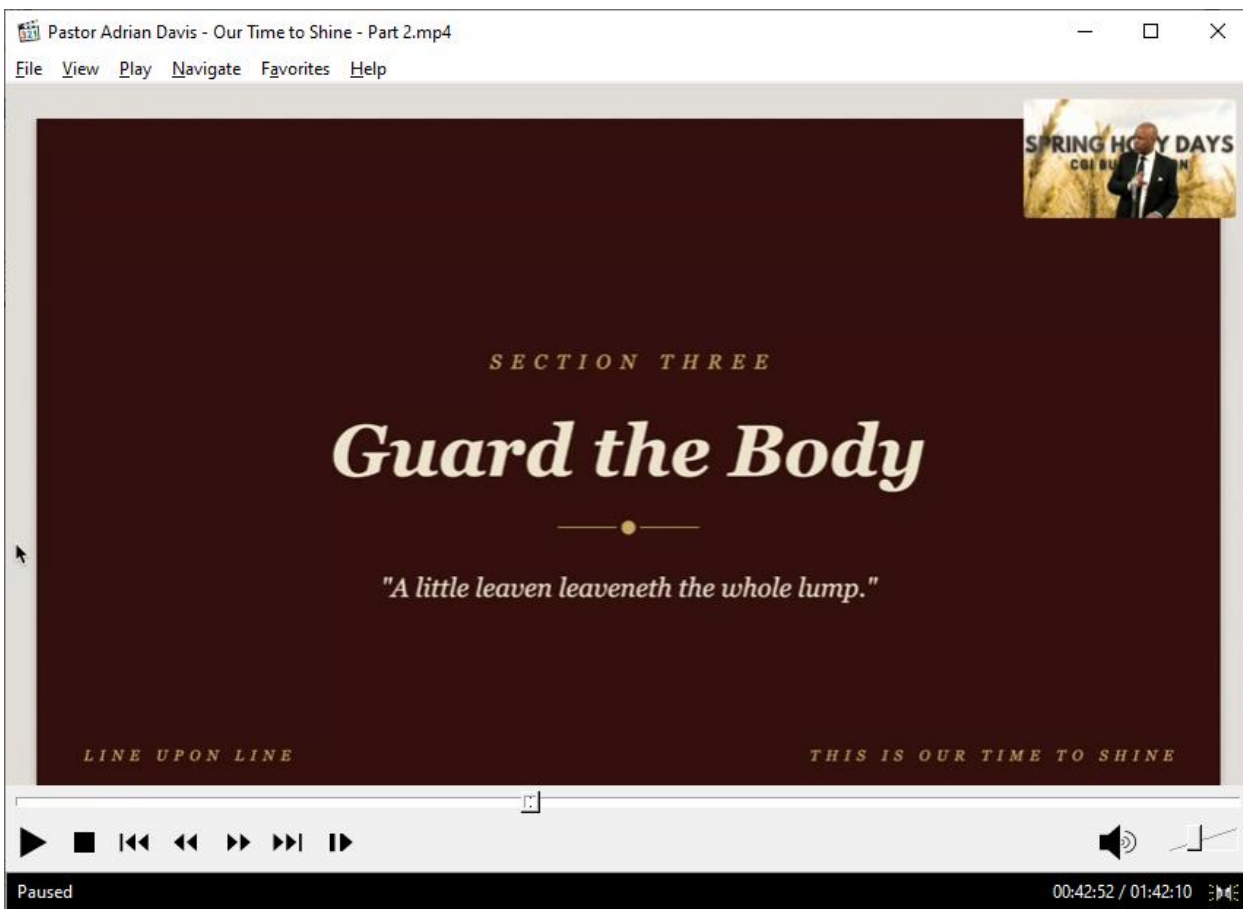
38:13: And let us consider one another.

38:16: To provoke unto love and to good works.

38:21: So we consider each other.

38:23: And the DNA of the muscle doesn't say go separate ways now because we tore it down.
 38:28: It says no, we understand the structure.
 38:30: Let's rebuild but stronger.
 38:33: And we can do that within the body.
 38:36: If we consider one another.
 38:37: How can we help one another?
 38:39: How can, how can I edify you?
 38:41: How can I provoke you unto love and good works?
 38:43: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.
 38:47: That's the spiritual DNA.
 38:49: That if I'm not truly plugged in and somebody upsets me, OK, I'm out of here, I'll, I'll go shopping.
 38:53: I'm a consumer Christian.
 38:55: I'm not getting what I want here, it's not to my liking.
 38:58: Let me go to the marketplace and see if I can find somewhere else.
 39:02: Versus, I'm a covenant, I'm a covenant keeping Christian.
 39:06: And, and in every sense, I'm in covenant with my brethren where God has placed me.
 39:11: And now something has torn down, a communication has torn down.
 39:16: We, there's a, there's a sense in which we can say, oh well, trust has been broken.
 39:22: There's been a breakdown here.
 39:24: It's unfortunate.
 39:25: I feel pain.
 39:27: Obviously I'm gonna walk away.
 39:30: Or, hey, there's been a tear.
 39:33: This is now the opportunity for us to rebuild stronger.
 39:36: Now I understand you.
 39:38: As a result of the stress that we've been through, as a result of this pressure, things came out of us that I didn't see before, but now we talk about it, and now I understand you, and you understand me.
 39:51: And now we can rebuild stronger than it was before.
 39:55: But there has to be this commitment that we're not going to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is.
 40:03: Instead, we're going to exhort one another.
 40:07: And so much the more as we see the darkness approaching.
 40:12: Because we have to be built godly with godly structure.
 40:15: We need, we need structural integrity.
 40:18: This is coming.
 40:19: It's, it's so, it's kind of, it's difficult.
 40:21: It's like, what are you talking about?
 40:24: We live in Canada, we live in America, we live wherever we live.
 40:28: It's, it's wonderful.
 40:29: I don't, I don't see what you're talking about.
 40:32: But if we have a spiritual sense of perception, This, what we see today is, is disappearing.
 40:38: It's going away.

40:39: And it's going to be replaced by a deep darkness, and the structural integrity is here.
40:48: It's, it's in individual relationships.
40:50: How do we treat each other?
40:53: That's the integrity.
40:55: And if there is not integrity in how we treat each other, if we speak disrespectfully to each other, if we, if we, denigrate each other's reputations.
41:08: If we behave in this dysfunctional way.
41:12: That is a crack in the calculation.
41:15: That's a miscalculation.
41:17: In 15 seconds, lives are lost when the whole thing collapses.
41:23: We've got to build these fibers between each other.
41:27: That when the pressure comes, you can't break this.
41:29: It's stronger than it was before.
41:32: I know you saw we had a relationship.
41:35: And you thought you could break that relationship.
41:37: What you didn't realize is when you came back, that relationship grew stronger.
41:42: The mutual respect grew deeper.
41:45: And now it's just there's no way.
41:47: By this shall all men know that you're my disciples.
41:52: But it happens over time and it happens with terrors.
41:55: We have to accept that there's gonna be, relationships are gonna be torn, feelings are gonna be hurt, there are going to be misunderstandings.
42:03: Are we mature enough to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together?
42:08: Are we mature enough to talk?
42:10: Can we have a conversation about this?
42:13: And it's only through talking.
42:15: That we actually see each other.
42:17: So yeah, you can see me.
42:20: But you can't see how I think.
42:23: If you want to see how I think, that becomes visible through conversation.
42:28: Especially conversation around difficult matters.
42:32: And so we have to be committed to this.
42:36: If we go to the next slide.



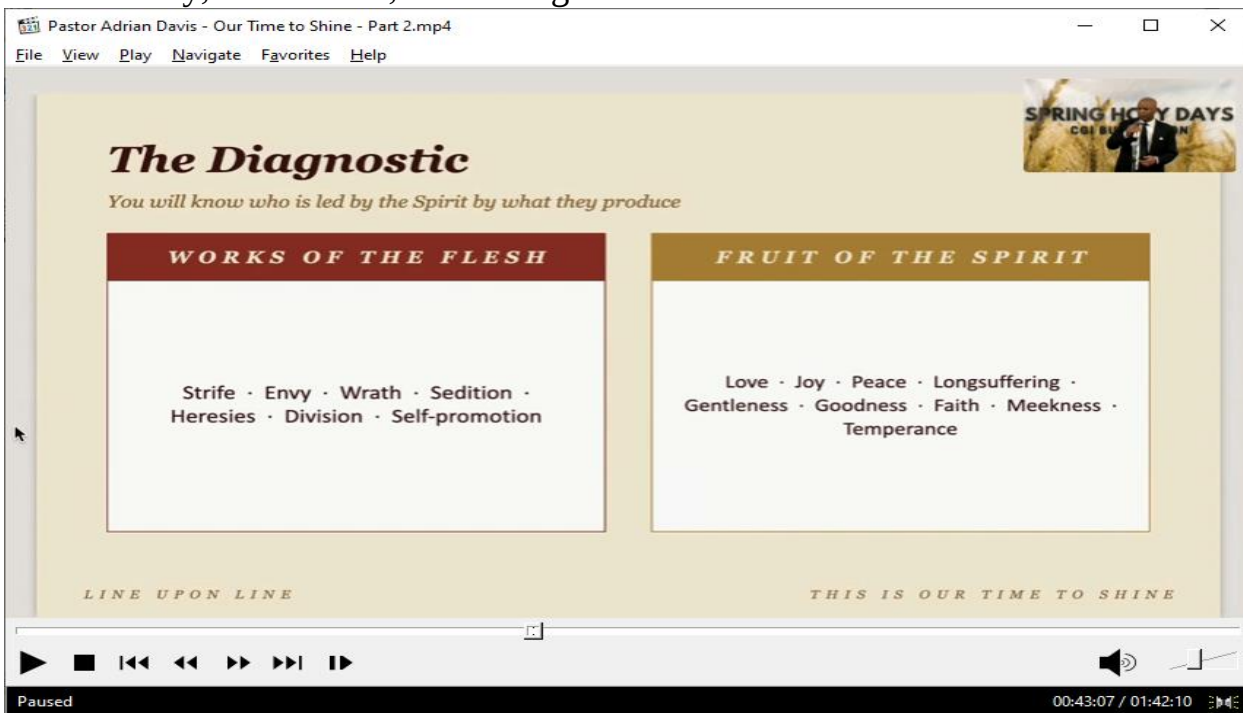
42:38: That commitment then is that we must guard the body.

42:44: And when I say guard the body, I don't mean it's the minister's job.

42:47: As a shepherd, of course, shepherds have to look after the flock, but it's the whole flock's job to look after the flock.

42:55: Let's look at Matthew.

42:58: Sorry, Galatians 5, and we'll go to the next slide.



43:02: Let's go to Galatians 5.

43:10: As spiritual as we are, We are in earthen vessels.

43:16: We are human beings.

43:18: We still struggle with carnal nature.

43:21: And so as humans, we have every opportunity to bring carnal nature into the congregation.

43:30: That's like, that's a given.

43:32: While we are seeking to exhibit the fruit of the spirit, as human beings, we also exhibit carnal nature.

43:39: Galatians 5.

43:42: And I'm reading this now, and I want you to read this with me through the lens of your responsibility.

43:48: To protect the body Yes, it's my responsibility, but it's yours as well.

43:53: Galatians 5, we, we need to have this perception.

43:56: Now the works of the flesh are obvious.

44:00: It's it's not something like we're not sure.

44:03: It's obvious, it's manifest.

44:05: Which are these?

44:07: Adultery It should, this should, this should not once be named among the saints, and yet unfortunately, it is.

44:17: Fornication Should not be once named among the saints.

44:23: Unfortunately, it is.

44:26: Uncleanliness, lasciviousness, these things are in the world.

44:33: Sadly, They're also in the church.

44:38: And this is why we need authority That these things must not be in the church, but they are, and they, they, they flourish without godly structure.

44:49: Idolatry Witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies.

45:02: And that emulation is like rivalries.

45:07: Envyings.

45:08: This is again, I've mentioned, your brother or sister is gifted in an area, and you'll see jealousy.

45:15: That can only come from the human nature.

45:17: Jealousy over a gift would never come from the Holy Spirit.

45:23: Should be, we should be happy that others are being blessed.

45:27: Envyings murders.

45:30: Drunkenness, revelings, and such like.

45:34: So we could go on and on and on, but you get the idea, this is obvious.

45:38: Of the which I tell you before.

45:40: As I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

45:50: It's just, it's, it's obvious, it's plain.

45:52: We shouldn't, we shouldn't have to be wondering about this.

45:54: We should not be tolerating this within Christ.

45:59: And yet we do.

46:00: And yet we do.

46:01: We can walk into congregations and we see all kinds of things that should never be.

46:05: And unfortunately, He says in another place, if you bite and devour each other, be careful you don't destroy each other.

46:15: And so if these things are present, we are on the road to destruction.

46:21: And we need structural integrity to move this leaven out of the congregation.

46:27: The fruit of the spirit, on the other hand, Is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

46:38: These are the things.

46:41: That if, if, if, if we come into our congregation, this should be our experience.

46:46: This is what we want to experience from each other, and this is why we want to be with each other, why we're happy to come early and stay late.

46:52: Because this is edifying.

46:54: This, this nourishes the soul, but this has to be protected.

47:02: 1 Corinthians Chapter 5 You can take the slide down now, thanks.

47:09: 1 Corinthians chapter 5.

47:12: To see how these works of the flesh can creep into a congregation.

47:21: And usually they don't come suddenly.

47:24: It's not like, you know, a couple comes into the congregation and they're all over each other and we know they're not married.

47:31: This would be shocking.

47:32: It's like, what are you doing?

47:34: We'd ask them to get out of here.

47:36: It's usually something that creeps in slowly.

47:41: And becomes tolerated.

47:45: And I've actually seen where this very type of behavior has come from the minister's family.

47:52: And so nobody wants to say anything.

47:54: Because, well, he has authority over us and therefore we have to tolerate this.

47:58: No, you don't.

48:00: No, you don't.

48:01: And so maybe this is the case here, where the person involved in this has some sort of authority or is a big donor to the congregation, but nobody wanted to speak up.

48:11: And so it's tolerated and it grows.

48:13: 1 Corinthians 5:1, it's reported commonly that there's fornication among you.

48:19: And such fornication of such pornea as is not so much as named among the Gentiles.

48:24: Gentiles would never tolerate this.

48:26: You, you would be sanctioned, you would be prosecuted for this kind of behavior, and yet it's tolerated in the church.

48:35: So this is showing structural integrity is, is, is, has been forsaken.

48:39: What is the pornea that one should have his father's wife?

48:44: incest.

48:46: And you're puffed up.

48:49: This is happening right in your congregation and you're proud of yourselves.

48:53: And have not rather mourned that he has done that has done this deed among you might be taken away from among you.

49:02: For I verily As absent in body, I'm not there, but I'm present in spirit.

49:08: I've judged already.

49:10: This is, this is, this is a no brainer.

49:12: I've judged already as though I were present concerning him that has so done this deed.

49:19: Notice verse 4.

49:22: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, with all authority of Christ Himself.

49:29: When you are gathered together.

49:31: When you come together and congregate.

49:35: When you come together as an assembly with my spirit.

49:40: With the power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

49:44: This is Holy Spirit power that can only function when there's structural integrity.

49:50: This power has been compromised.

49:52: This power needs to flourish.

49:55: It needs to be exercised.

49:56: And notice, it needs to be exercised by the congregation.

50:02: Authority has been delegated to the congregation to deal with this.

50:06: And, and the congregation needs to have maturity.

50:09: It needs to have Spirit power.

50:14: It needs to have Torah wiring.

50:18: Everybody's brain in the congregation has been wired by the Torah.

50:23: And has been informed and empowered by the spirit, make this judgment.

50:30: To deliver such a one to Satan.

50:32: For the destruction of the flesh.

50:35: This is if, if you're kind of this kind of weak Christian with no backbone.

50:39: With, with, with jell-o for a backbone.

50:43: You can't make this kind of judgment.

50:46: This is judgment that comes from the Holy Spirit.

50:48: Deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the Spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

50:55: There's a longer term view.

50:58: Verse 6, your glorying isn't good.

51:02: We have this sense of ourselves that we feel we're really doing well, and you say this is not good.

51:09: We're singing the hymns, we're glorifying God.

51:11: We think we're doing well.

51:12: This is not good.

51:14: Don't you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lumpet.

51:18: Verse 6, I could say it this way.

51:20: Don't you read the Torah?

51:23: Are you guys not studying the Torah?

51:25: Because if you were Torah informed, you'd be able to make this judgment.

51:30: The only way that you're you're, you're missing this is you're not studying Torah.

51:37: Because if you were, you would know that little Len leavens the whole lump.

51:41: Purge out therefore, the old lump.
 51:42: Make a decision collectively as a congregation based on Torah, not based on your emotions.
 51:48: Well, he's really nice.
 51:51: He donates a lot of money.
 51:53: It's the minister's son.
 51:55: Where would that none of that comes from Torah.
 51:58: Just make a judgment.
 52:00: Purge out, therefore, the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened, for even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
 52:07: Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
 52:16: So in other words, it is possible.
 52:20: Maybe even likely for a congregation to be keeping God's holy days with malice and wickedness.
 52:28: And not with structural integrity.
 52:30: And it's the responsibility of the congregation.
 52:34: To look after this, not just the minister Matthew 18, and maybe we can bring up the slide again.

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The Matthew 18 Process

Authority belongs to the congregation - Rooted in Torah

- 1**
Go alone
Address the brother privately
- 2**
Take witnesses
Two or three to confirm
- 3**
Tell the church
Bring it before the congregation
- 4**
Put away the leaven
If unrepentant, treat as heathen

The congregation, not the pastor alone, holds the power of life and death over members.

LINE UPON LINE

THIS IS OUR TIME TO SHINE

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52:41: Matthew 18, you'll see the Matthew 18 process here, it's a 4-step process, which again, I just want to show you in 1 Corinthians 5, but not only in 1 Corinthians 5, but also in Matthew 18.
 52:54: The congregation has a responsibility.

52:57: It's not just the minister.
52:59: Matthew 18 and just drop down to verse 15, so we know this is a situation where there has been sin.
53:07: Moreover, if thy brother shall Hamartano.
53:14: If your brother shall hammertano against you.
53:18: This is not that your feelings were hurt.
53:22: This is not just that, you know, they stepped on your toe.
53:26: This is Hamatao They have sinned And you've been the victim of this sin.
53:32: This is a very serious matter.
53:34: This could be a 1 Corinthians 5 situation.
53:38: Remember having his father's wife, and the, the father, this is Hammertano against the father.
53:42: How do you handle this if it's inside the household?
53:45: If your brother shall hammer Tano against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.
53:53: So your your your intention here is not to get even.
53:57: It's rather to redeem It's to recover the relationship.
54:01: If he shall hear you, you've gained your brother.
54:04: But if he will not hear you, then take with you one or two more that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established anywhere from Genesis to Revelation.
54:17: When you see two witnesses are involved, death is not far from that.
54:22: Two witnesses means somebody's going to be put to death.
54:26: And as it was in the Torah, so it is in the Gospels.
54:32: Where this, this is a death sentence that's about to come down, but we need witnesses.
54:37: And so there's there's something very serious involved.
54:39: This is Hammertano.
54:41: This is not you hurt my feelings.
54:43: This is you've sinned, and I've suffered.
54:46: And I'm coming to you to hopefully recover the relationship and bring you back into the fold.
54:51: You didn't listen.
54:53: OK, I'm bringing a witness, maybe 2, so there can be 2 or 3 witnesses.
54:57: Somebody's going to be put to death here.
55:00: Verse 17 Verse 17, and if you shall neglect to hear the witnesses, tell it to the congregation.
55:12: But if he neglect to hear the congregation, let him be unto you as a heathen man and a publican.
55:19: This, at this stage, the sinner has lost all rights to privacy.
55:26: We can't hide this anymore.
55:28: And it's not the minister who then makes the death sentence.
55:33: Just as we saw in Joshua.
55:36: Where the manslayer.
55:39: could flee to a city of refuge, and they would hear the case and say, OK, it sounds like manslaughter, come in, we'll protect you until trial date.

55:47: Now you're going to go back to the congregation, back to the city where it occurred, and we're going to have the congregation.

55:54: Decide whether you live or die.

55:57: So the same way that the judgment of life and death was with the congregation in the Torah, so it is here.

56:04: So what this says to you is we need mature brethren.

56:09: We can't have brethren who, when, when we bring a matter to them, they're gonna be all emotional.

56:14: And well this is how I feel.

56:16: I, I, I, I really feel this way.

56:19: We're dealing with life and death.

56:22: Here, I need every one of you.

56:25: To be Torah informed.

56:27: And Torah compliant.

56:29: That should we have a matter of life and death, and we have to decide as a congregation.

56:35: Each person is saying, well, you know, it's written.

56:38: And someone else is saying that's true, but it's also written.

56:41: And we're sorting through the Torah to then say, here's our judgment.

56:47: This is the maturity that's needed.

56:49: And as the shepherd, I need to develop this.

56:53: But as spirit-filled brethren, you need to develop this as well, because this is the only way we're gonna get through the future.

57:01: Otherwise we end up like the Corinthians.

57:04: 1 Corinthians 14.

57:09: 1 Corinthians 14.

57:29: Here in this chapter.

57:32: Paul is correcting this dysfunctional congregation, though gifted.

57:37: Helping them to understand in 1 Corinthians 11.

57:42: The abuses that they're inflicting on one another.

57:46: In 1 Corinthians 12, how to see each other and how to value each other.

57:51: At the end of 1 Corinthians 12, yes, gifts are very important, pursue them, but pursue the best one.

57:57: But before he tells which the best one is, he goes into 1 Corinthians 13 to talk about the way of love and agape, to make sure that that's established.

58:05: Then he comes back in 1 Corinthians 14 to pick up where he left off in 1 Corinthians 12, to say, yes, pursue, have agape, but pursue prophecy, this ability to speak under inspiration, whether one on one or or more.

58:19: But look at verse 12, 1 Corinthians 14 and verse 12.

58:24: Even so you.

58:26: For as much as you are zealous of spiritual gifts, and, and congratulations to this congregation, they, they wanted the gifts, although they were dysfunctional.

58:35: He's acknowledging that they're zealous for the gifts.

58:38: Rather, this is his whole point in this chapter, seek that you may excel to the edifying of the church.

58:47: Pursue that structural integrity.

58:49: And help brethren understand what their gifts are.

58:52: Support them in the development of their gifts so that they can support you in the development of yours, always, all the time to the edification of the church, even when we have to make harsh judgments like Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 5.

59:05: It's not out of a vindictive spirit, it's out of structural integrity.

59:10: That sometimes we'll have to make these judgments, but it's always all the time to the end of the building up.

59:16: We are construction workers, to the building up of the body.

59:19: Brethren verse 20.

59:22: Be not children in understanding.

59:26: Study the Torah, study the prophets, study the writings, study the apostolic teachings, study revelation, understand how it all ties together, rooted in Torah, and the Bible's telling one story, and let's grow up spiritually so that we're not children in understanding.

59:45: We can talk to anybody.

59:46: Bring the most learned rabbi.

59:48: We would love to sit down and talk.

59:51: Bring the most learned, Christian minister.

59:54: We'd love to sit down and talk because we're not children in understanding.

59:58: However, in malice be you children.

1:00:02: It's like somebody hurts us, we're upset, and then we forget about it and we're playing in the sandbox again.

1:00:08: Let's be like that.

1:00:10: In malice be your children, but in understanding, men.

1:00:14: Let's study the Bible.

1:00:16: When people ask us for judgments, we can make these judgments.

1:00:20: And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

1:00:24: In fact, I was reading a verse 32 there, and this is a really important verse 32.

1:00:29: He, he's telling us to pursue this gift of prophecy.

1:00:33: And so, by inspiration, or I, I can speak by inspiration, cause I'm, I'm, I'm, I'm really developing this gift to prophesy.

1:00:42: And then he says to me, hey, hey, hey, hey, the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

1:00:49: It's not freewheeling.

1:00:50: Now I'm in control and I do whatever I want.

1:00:53: It's if someone else is inspired.

1:00:57: I'm gonna listen to them Because the spirit is inspiring them.

1:01:02: And so now I'm gonna yield and listen to them.

1:01:05: It's that I'm gonna study Isaiah and Malachi and Zachariah and and Haggai and Obadiah, and I'm gonna be subject to their teachings.

1:01:16: It's that I'm not an apostle.

1:01:20: But I'm subjected to the apostles, and I'm gonna be studying their teachings.

1:01:25: So we cannot have, and this is why I say the horizontal structure protects the vertical.

1:01:30: There's no gifted person that will violate the vertical structure.

1:01:36: Violation of the vertical structure comes from the devil, let's just say it plainly.

1:01:40: The devil hates that.

1:01:42: And there's a sense in which that vertical structure can be inverted, and Christ is actually the lowest.

1:01:49: Who then has the elders and then the deacons to support the body.

1:01:53: But we're all members of each of the body.

1:01:56: Verse 40 So the fact that we're subject to the prophets, we're subject to the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is subject to the Holy Spirit.

1:02:04: Verse 40, let all things be done decently and in order.

1:02:10: a Church of God is not chaotic.

1:02:13: If we have chaos in our congregation, then Satan is in our congregation.

1:02:18: If we have rebellion in our congregation, then Satan is in our congregation.

1:02:22: Let everything be done decently in order.

1:02:24: That's what comes from the Holy Spirit.

1:02:26: This, this self-control, this temperance, this, this respect for one another, this, this flourishing.

1:02:33: That people come here to flourish.

1:02:36: They come here to thrive.

1:02:37: They come here to grow.

1:02:38: Not to be harmed And so we see here.

1:02:44: In 1 Thessalonians 5.

1:03:06: In 1 Thessalonians 5.

1:03:10: I was just thinking of 1 Corinthians 6, we won't turn there, but I was just thinking of it in 1 Corinthians 6, where Paul is astonished.

1:03:19: That members are taking each other to court.

1:03:23: And he's like, how can this be?

1:03:25: He's like, don't you have anybody who's Torah-minded among you?

1:03:30: That you could go to them, within the congregation, and they could give you a godly judgment.

1:03:35: So he, he, he's like shocked.

1:03:37: He, he expects such maturity in the congregation that everyone is Torah informed.

1:03:44: And you could go to the lowest brother or sister, and they could give you a judgment, a biblical judgment.

1:03:49: This is what we have to build up.

1:03:51: Here in 1 Thessalonians 5 and verse 14.

1:03:55: And again, we can only do this, brethren, if we're not judging from emotion.

1:04:00: We're judging from Torah 1 Thessalonians 5:14.

1:04:07: Now we exhort you, this is an exhortation, with all urgency, urgency, because we're wearing the ring, the iron ring.

1:04:15: And we're aware of catastrophe.

1:04:18: And so as we wear the iron ring and we're looking at the drawings, we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly.

1:04:25: That's a miscalculation that we cannot ignore.

1:04:28: That's a crack that with the right pressure, everything falls apart.

1:04:31: Everything that we've been building gone in 15 seconds.

1:04:37: Warn them that are unruly.

1:04:39: Comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak.

1:04:43: So the unruly, the feeble-minded, and the weak are cracks in the foundation, cracks in the building.

1:04:51: The unruly, the feeble-minded, and the weak, 15 seconds, everything is destroyed.

1:04:58: So we have to have a mind of reinforcing the cracks.

1:05:03: Stealing the cracks.

1:05:05: Strengthening the weak, so that when this pressure, which low it will come.

1:05:10: It's coming.

1:05:11: We've had a couple of dry rehearsals or dress rehearsals, dry runs.

1:05:15: It's coming.

1:05:16: Let's deal with the cracks now.

1:05:18: These engineers in 2007, they knew there were miscalculations.

1:05:22: They knew it.

1:05:23: They just ignored it.

1:05:24: They didn't address it.

1:05:27: And then he says, he says, be patient toward all men.

1:05:29: Men is in italics.

1:05:31: It's sort of all of a sudden we're being patient toward all men.

1:05:34: No, be patient toward all.

1:05:36: Within the household Within the household, there's going to be issues, there's going to be challenges.

1:05:42: Let's be patient toward all.

1:05:44: If we go to the next slide.

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SECTION FOUR

The Power

Structure without the Spirit is structure without power.

Acts 1:8 <i>Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.</i>	Zechariah 4:6 <i>Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.</i>	Zechariah 4:10 <i>Who hath despised the day of small things?</i>
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LINE UPON LINE

THIS IS OUR TIME TO SHINE

Paused 01:07:06 / 01:42:10

1:05:46: This is what we are gathering together to celebrate.

1:05:51: Tomorrow As we observe and have been counting towards Pentecost, the power of the Holy Spirit.

1:06:00: There is work to be done.

1:06:01: It could not be done until the receipt of the Holy Spirit in Acts one.

1:06:06: Acts 1.

1:06:11: And verse 8.

1:06:13: But you shall receive power.

1:06:15: He told us, stay here in Jerusalem.

1:06:18: And you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

1:06:24: And then what happens when you receive the Holy Spirit and you receive this power?

1:06:27: Get to work.

1:06:29: The purpose of the powers is work.

1:06:32: It's to put you to work and to do a work that's not possible humanly.

1:06:37: And so as we gather together to observe Pentecost tomorrow, let us observe with a sense of purpose, with a sense of passion, that the whole reason for having the Holy Spirit is to be put to work on a, on a, on a supernatural level.

1:06:54: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit shall come upon you.

1:06:58: And you shall be my martyrs.

1:07:01: You shall be my witnesses.

1:07:03: You, you are going to be empowered with a message that's going to be hated, but it's unstoppable.

1:07:08: Nothing can stop you, not even death, because the Holy Spirit, you'll just pass the baton to someone else.

1:07:16: You'll be my witnesses unto me.

1:07:18: Notice it begins in Jerusalem.

1:07:21: That is the Earth's epicenter, and it should be ours.

1:07:25: We, we should be Jerusalem minded.

1:07:27: Hopefully we're Jerusalem minded.

1:07:30: You will be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile, but it begins in Jerusalem and Judea, and in Samaria, now it's the broader Israel, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

1:07:46: That's why we observe Pentecost, to be put to this work.

1:07:51: Now let's see this in Zechariah.

1:07:52: Let's go to Zechariah 4.

1:07:54: Is Zechariah 4?

1:08:04: How do we take this work to the uttermost parts of the earth?

1:08:09: Especially when we've seen the setbacks over and over again with the church.

1:08:14: We build up, we tear down, we build up, we tear down because we lack structural integrity.

1:08:19: We need to have a structural integrity such that we build up and it never reverses.

1:08:24: We build up, it doesn't reverse.

1:08:26: No matter what setbacks we face, we just keep going forward.

1:08:29: And the only way we can do that is with the Holy Spirit.

1:08:32: And the only way the Holy Spirit can flourish within us is with structural integrity.

1:08:37: We can do what we like.
1:08:40: There's no immediate consequences.
1:08:42: To doing whatever we like.
1:08:45: But there are long term consequences.
1:08:47: And there is catastrophic failure to doing what we like.
1:08:50: We won't notice it right away, but it's coming.
1:08:53: And so to do this work with the power of the Lord, we need structural integrity.
1:09:00: Zechariah 4.
1:09:02: The Jews have returned to Jerusalem after being enslaved by Babylon, it's time now to rebuild.
1:09:09: The rebuilding is not going so well.
1:09:11: Listen to the encouragement that comes from the Lord.
1:09:15: Zechariah 4 will break in at verse 6.
1:09:18: Actually, no, for this one, let's just let's look at this in context.
1:09:23: Zechariah 4, we'll just read from verse 1.
1:09:28: And the angel that talked with me came again and woke me as a man that has wakened out of his sleep.
1:09:33: So I was in a deep sleep, he woke me up and he said unto me, What do you see?
1:09:37: And I said, I've looked and behold, a candlestick all of gold.
1:09:40: So he sees this beautiful candlestick of gold and a bowl at the top of it.
1:09:44: And 7 lamps in the bowl.
1:09:48: And 7 pipes to the 7 lamps, which are on the upon the top thereof, and 2 olive trees by it, one on the right side and one of the bowl, and the other on the left side thereof.
1:10:00: So the olive trees are feeding these lamps that are on this bowl, on this candlestick of gold.
1:10:06: And so, I answered.
1:10:09: And spoke to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?
1:10:14: Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, do you know, do you not know what these are?
1:10:22: And I said, no, my lord.
1:10:24: Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, this is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, who's leading the rebuilding project, saying, basically, don't be discouraged.
1:10:35: Because it's not by might.
1:10:38: Nor by human power.
1:10:40: But by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts, and again, that's why I'm saying we have to have this structural integrity.
1:10:47: We're we're gonna be observing Pentecost to celebrate the receipt of the Spirit, but if we don't have structural integrity, it, the Spirit won't flow.
1:10:55: And we cannot do this work, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts, who are you, oh great mountain, before the rubber bell.
1:11:05: You shall become a plane.
1:11:06: You'll be flattened.
1:11:08: There is no force more powerful than the Spirit of God.
1:11:13: And there is no obstacle that can withstand the purpose of God.

1:11:17: So if we are within the purpose of God, Filled and imbued with the spirit of God, there's no obstacle that can stop us.

1:11:29: And he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it, the building project will succeed.

1:11:37: Moreover, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, the hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and, and many saw the foundation and were discouraged, because it was nothing like Solomon's temple.

1:11:50: But God is now encouraging Zabel.

1:11:52: Don't be discouraged.

1:11:54: The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house.

1:11:57: His hands shall also finish it, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me unto you.

1:12:05: This is a spiritual work, for who has despised the day of small things?

1:12:12: Don't worry that we're small.

1:12:14: Don't worry that we seem insignificant.

1:12:17: If the Holy Spirit is with us, don't despise the day of small things.

1:12:23: That's how God works with men.

1:12:25: He starts really small, and then the spirit flourishes, as long as it's allowed to flourish.

1:12:32: Who's despised the day of small things, for they shall rejoice and see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel.

1:12:38: So this is a plummet line with a weight to make sure that the construction project is straight and has structural integrity.

1:12:44: There are no miscalculations.

1:12:47: And shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those 7, those candlesticks.

1:12:53: They are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

1:12:57: God is aware of what's happening on earth, and he's aware of who is taking his structure seriously.

1:13:04: He's aware of who's allowing the spirit to flourish.

1:13:07: He's aware of who's edifying the body and rebuilding those muscle fibers so that they're stronger after a tear.

1:13:21: I want to go to Luke 18.

1:13:25: Because it says not by strength nor by might, but by my spirit.

1:13:32: We have to have that structural integrity for the spirit to flow within us.

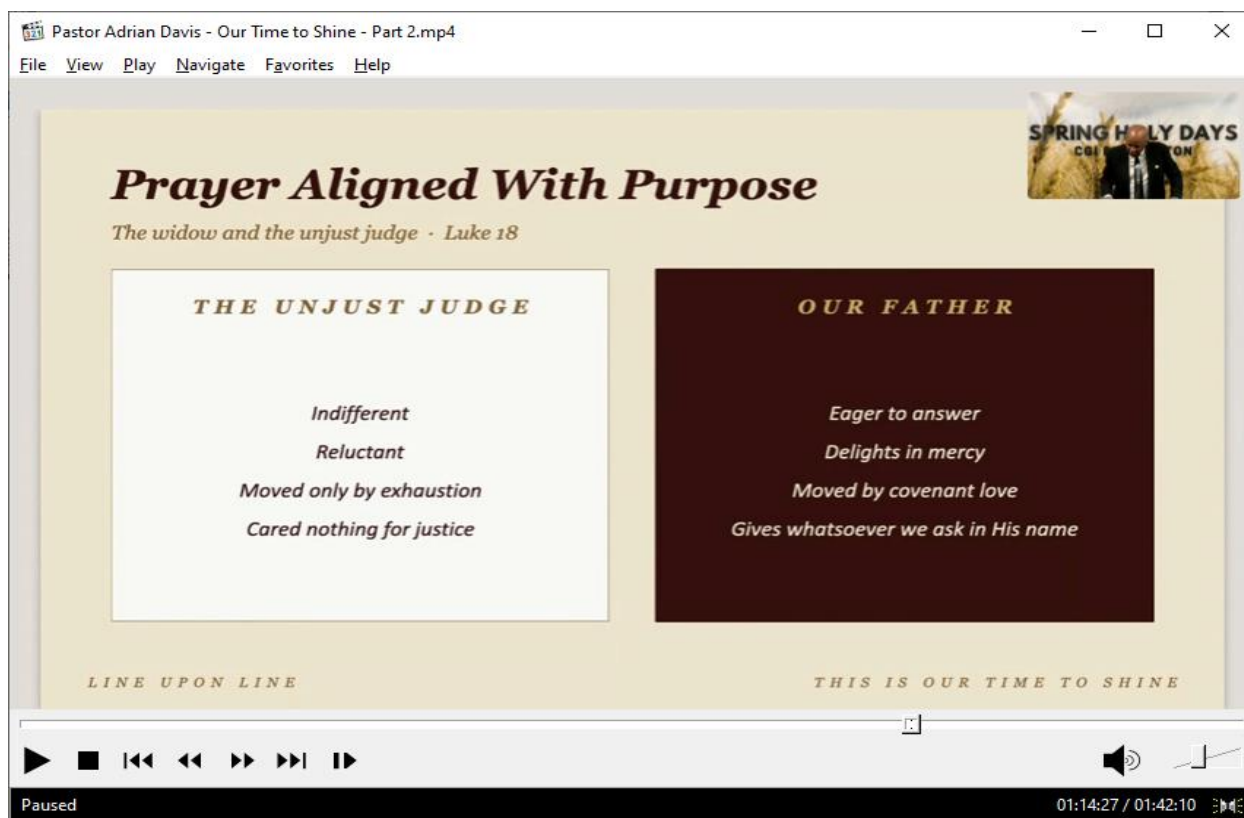
1:13:37: We also have to have faith.

1:13:39: That in the face of a massive mountain, and in this case let's say that the mountain is the government who will be against us.

1:13:47: No matter how much power they have, we, we must have faith.

1:13:51: Look at Luke 18.

1:13:54: Luke 18 If you can just bring up my next slide, that's a prayer aligned with purpose.



1:14:02: So tomorrow when we gather to celebrate the Day of Pentecost.
 1:14:09: Let us do so understanding more the the purpose of Pentecost.
 1:14:13: Why do we have this Holy Spirit?
 1:14:15: Why would God give us this magnificent power?
 1:14:18: He put the disciples to work right away.
 1:14:20: Here's the power.
 1:14:21: Here's the purpose.
 1:14:23: We have to have this great sense of purpose.
 1:14:24: Luke 18 and verse 1, and he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought
 always to pray and not to faint.
 1:14:32: So as these dark shadows close in on us, as the dark prophecies begin to unfold, men
 ought always to pray.
 1:14:40: And not to faint.
 1:14:41: There was in a city a judge which feared not God, neither regarded man.
 1:14:47: So you, you know, these kind of powerful people that nothing can contain them.
 1:14:51: They do what they want.
 1:14:52: They're full of themselves.
 1:14:54: So was this judge, and there was a widow, the exact opposite, total weakness, total
 desperation and dependency, no economic capability to defend herself.
 1:15:05: So there's this widow in that city.
 1:15:07: And she came unto me, unto him saying, avenge me of mine adversary.
 1:15:12: Somebody has taken advantage of this widow.
 1:15:15: And he wouldn't for a while.
 1:15:17: He didn't care.

1:15:18: It's not like he could look and say that's a terrible situation, out of humanity, let me help you, he couldn't care less.

1:15:25: But afterward he said within himself, though I fear not God nor regard man, I do what I want.

1:15:33: Yet because this widow troubles me.

1:15:35: I will avenge her.

1:15:38: Lest by her continual coming she weary me.

1:15:41: So he just couldn't take it anymore.

1:15:43: Every day she's, she's coming to his court.

1:15:46: Every day people are seeing him, her pleading with him and seeing like, man, this guy's got no heart, he's cruel, he's and and so to protect his reputation maybe, but he's like, I gotta do something, so she's gonna weary me.

1:16:00: Verse 6, hear what the unjust judge said.

1:16:06: So, that's what the unjust judge said.

1:16:09: God is not unjust.

1:16:11: This is, this is one of those rabbinical teachings, the lesser, therefore the greater, from the lesser to the greater, how much more?

1:16:19: If the unjust judge.

1:16:22: We'll listen to the widow who's powerless.

1:16:25: How much more shall the great God of cassette of covenant keeping faithfulness listen to us who are powerless in the face of a big mountain.

1:16:36: Hear what the unjust judge said.

1:16:39: And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cried day and night unto him, though he bear along with them.

1:16:48: This is faith.

1:16:49: That he may not answer us right away.

1:16:52: But if we know we have the purpose of the Holy Spirit in us, if we know we're structured with integrity, and we're doing His will, which is going to be very difficult, that's what the, the, the, the beast in the Middle Eastern prophecy.

1:17:05: Choose your sides.

1:17:06: Which side are you on?

1:17:08: It's going to be very difficult.

1:17:11: And we're going to suffer for it and we're going to be hated of all nations for it.

1:17:15: And he's going to bear along with us.

1:17:16: He's not going to answer right away.

1:17:18: He's not this beck and call God.

1:17:20: He's not a vending machine.

1:17:23: He does it on his will, on his time.

1:17:26: I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

1:17:29: When he acts, he'll act decisively.

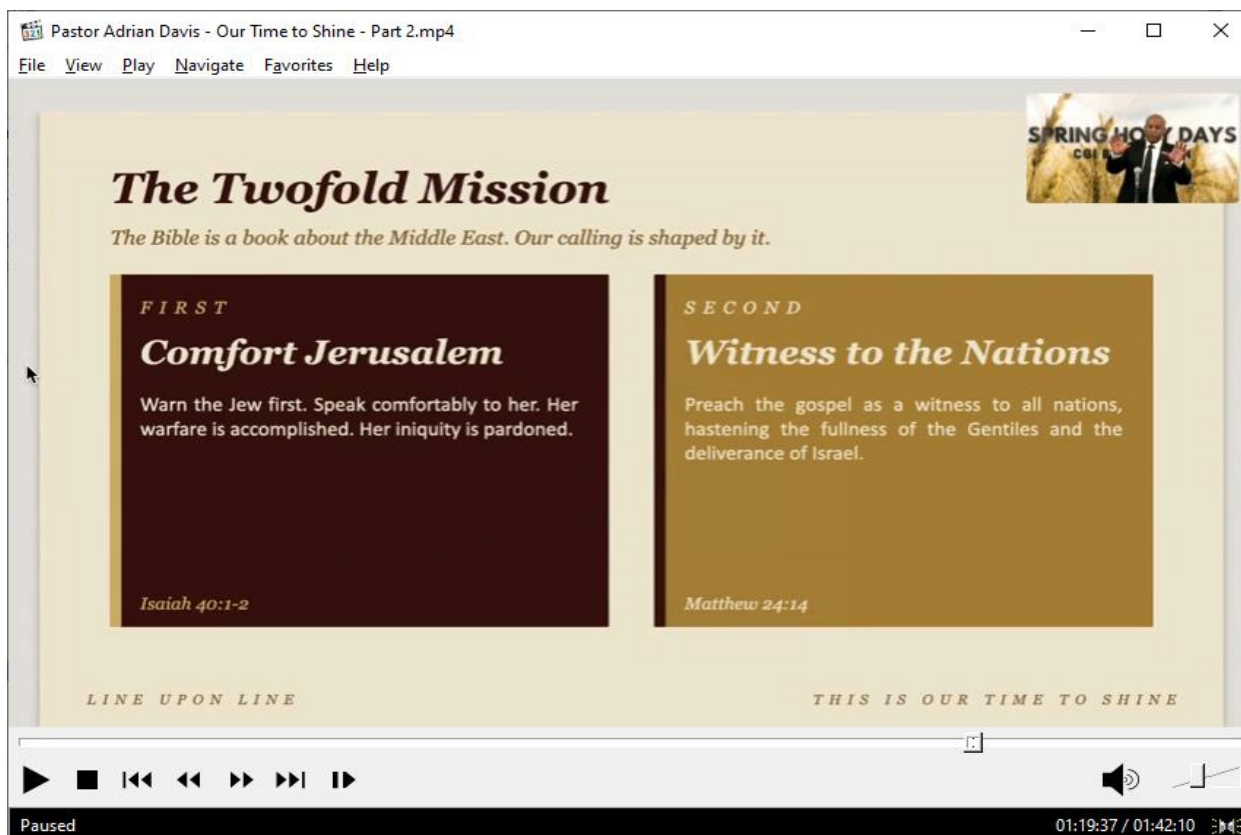
1:17:31: Nevertheless, despite that, that the, the, the unjust judge can be moved, how much more can God be moved?

1:17:38: Nevertheless, even though the unjust judge will act.

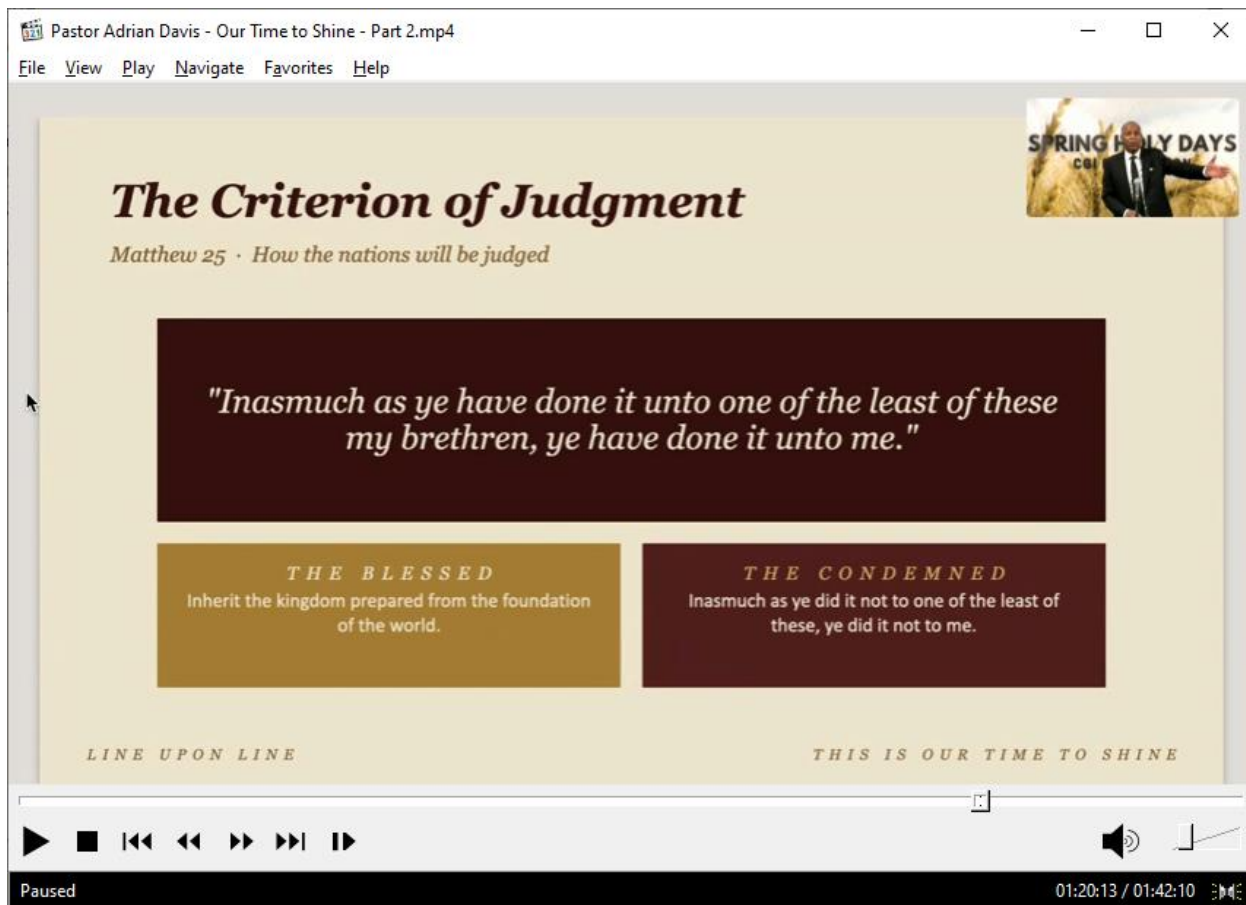
1:17:44: God's people, knowing God's character, we come to this conclusion.

1:17:49: Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, shall he find faith on the earth.

1:17:55: And the way the question is worded in the Greek, it's begging the answer no.
1:17:58: It's saying he's not going to find faith on the earth.
1:18:02: This is, this is the future of the church.
1:18:05: Unless we have structural integrity.
1:18:08: Unless the Holy Spirit is flowing through that structure.
1:18:11: And unless we pray through all of this together.
1:18:21: Let's wrap up here.
1:18:22: We'll go to The next slide Which is really telling us, I've said it already, we're going to be hated for his name's sake.



1:18:33: So if we go to our twofold mission.
 1:18:38: Where we see And we've read it many times in Isaiah 40.
 1:18:43: The spirit informed part of the covenant community.
 1:18:49: is being told to comfort.
 1:18:51: The part of the covenant community that is not spirit filled.
 1:18:55: To preach the gospel to them.
 1:18:58: To focus on Jerusalem, that all armies are surrounding Jerusalem, and to speak comfort to Jerusalem.
 1:19:04: That's our first mission.
 1:19:07: Start with Jerusalem.
 1:19:09: But then we have to spread it to the ends of the earth, to the nations.
 1:19:13: And so we see in Matthew 24, this call of purpose to preach the gospel to the whole world, to the, to the Gentile nations, to as a warning and a witness.
 1:19:24: So it's twofold.
 1:19:26: When, when it will cost us our lives and our livelihood to side with Jerusalem because of God's covenant faithfulness.
 1:19:36: And we're going to preach that to Jerusalem.
 1:19:38: That there was a purpose behind all of this, and we're also going to preach to the nations.
 1:19:44: And then if you go to the next slide.



1:19:47: Matthew 25.

1:19:50: I'm gonna ask you to read that on your own from verses 31 to 46, where this is where you have the passage, where Christ says, as much as you've done it to the least of one of these, my brethren, you've done it unto me.

1:20:05: And Christians take that as, oh, it's time for us to be good to fellow Christians.

1:20:11: There's a Christian in jail, we need to go and visit that Christian in jail, because in as much as we've done it to one of these, the least of Christ's brethren, we've done it unto Christ.

1:20:21: So Christians, let's be good to fellow Christians.

1:20:25: And that's not at all what the text says.

1:20:28: The text says that this is the time of judging the gent after the gospel has been after the gospel has been preached to the nations, this is the time when God judges the nations.

1:20:39: And he separates them on one criterion.

1:20:42: How did you treat the Jews?

1:20:45: That's it.

1:20:46: How did you treat the Jews?

1:20:48: The least, if you've, how you treated the least of one of these, my brethren, is how you've treated me.

1:20:53: And so read that for yourself from Matthew 25:31-46 and read it clearly.

1:21:01: It's not talking about individuals, it's talking about nations.

1:21:05: And so the gospel has to be preached to the nations for them to be held accountable, and that's going to be extremely difficult.

1:21:15: I'm going to conclude now.

1:21:17: In Daniel, well, first, let me go to Joel 3.

1:21:20: Let's go to Joel 3.

1:21:21: And then we'll go to Daniel 12.

1:21:25: And you can take the slides down.

1:21:31: Joel 3 As we wrap up.

1:21:40: We have to be in alignment with God's purpose, but the reason we've received the Holy Spirit is so that we can do God's work.

1:21:48: We won't be able to endure if we don't have structural integrity.

1:21:53: So let's make sure that we're about protecting the vertical and the horizontal structure so that the Holy Spirit can flow through us and we can do the purpose of God at scale.

1:22:03: Even though we start small, we can do it at scale.

1:22:06: We have to have some vision here.

1:22:07: We can do it at scale, and even a mountain before us will be made a plain.

1:22:13: Through our prayer connection with God.

1:22:17: Joel 3 and verse 1.

1:22:20: For behold, in those days and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, you'd have to understand Torah to understand this.

1:22:31: You'd have to go to what Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 30:1 to 10, to understand what does it mean that he's going to end.

1:22:37: The captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, but that's yet ahead of us, and if we're, if we're in replacement theology or separation theology, we're not going to be in line with God's purpose.

1:22:48: But God is going to end the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, and at that time, he says, I will also gather all nations.

1:22:56: Matthew 25 is speaking about the future.

1:23:00: When there's a division between Judah and Jerusalem and all nations.

1:23:04: And somebody has been preaching the gospel both to Judah and Jerusalem and to all nations.

1:23:10: And God says at this time I will also gather all nations, and I'm going to bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, a valley that's in Jerusalem.

1:23:19: God is orchestrating things right now, so that there is a climactic battle.

1:23:25: In Jerusalem.

1:23:26: And somebody's preaching the gospel.

1:23:28: Somebody's comforting Jerusalem and warning the nations.

1:23:31: And then the nations are going to be judged by how they treated Jerusalem.

1:23:35: And I will plead with the nations, the Gentiles there for my people.

1:23:40: When Christ returns, there's a difference between His people and Gentiles.

1:23:45: I will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations and parted my land.

1:23:53: Are we clued out?

1:23:54: Are we on some sort of replacement theology drug that's causing us to hallucinate?

1:24:00: Or are we tied into separation theology that causes us to be indifferent?

1:24:05: Or are we covenantal theology?

1:24:08: That causes us to be on God's purpose and praise God for the Holy Spirit that enables us to withstand all opposition and preach the gospel, the gospel that Christ preached.

1:24:18: I'll plead with the, the Gentiles there.

1:24:21: I'm gonna bring them down to Jerusalem.

1:24:23: They're gonna surround Jerusalem with armies, and I'm going to plead with the Gentiles there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the Gentile nations, and they've parted my land.

1:24:35: And they have cast lots for my people, and they've given a boy into prostitution.

1:24:40: And Muslims love that kind of prostitution, by the way, just saying it's it's in their sacred writings, and sold the girl for wine that they might have drink.

1:24:51: Let's conclude now In Daniel 12.

1:24:57: And I want to conclude here in Daniel 12.

1:25:00: Because Where we started.

1:25:06: was with the the dark nature of the prophecies.

1:25:10: That the sun is setting on Western civilization.

1:25:15: And there's a darkness that's covering the land.

1:25:18: And there is an anti-Christ that is going to have the upper hand.

1:25:23: And is going to cause all nations to worship him.

1:25:29: And it's going to be ugly.

1:25:31: And if we just stop there, it could be discouraging.

1:25:35: But we've just reddened Zabbabel.

1:25:37: No no matter how big the mountain is, it's going to be a plain.

1:25:41: Before God's work, even if it starts small.

1:25:44: And so here we are trying to come to understand covenantal theology, and we're starting very small.

1:25:49: Do not despise the day of small things.

1:25:52: It has to start somewhere.

1:25:54: Do not despise the day of small things.

1:25:56: Even a mountain, even the antichrist, will be made a plain before the purpose of God.

1:26:03: Which we receive with the Holy Spirit, as long as we have the structural integrity to receive it and retain it.

1:26:11: Daniel 12.

1:26:13: Well, let's just go back to Daniel 11:41.

1:26:17: Daniel 11, just to get the context of the time, says at that time, what time?

1:26:22: Daniel 11:41, the antichrist shall enter also into the glorious land.

1:26:29: If we're about replacement theology, we have no clue what this is talking about.

1:26:33: If we're about the covenant, we understand exactly what this is.

1:26:37: He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown.

1:26:40: This is a serious political move now to get control of the whole earth.

1:26:45: But these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom and Moab and the chief of the children of Ammon.

1:26:51: We don't fully know what this means yet.

1:26:53: We will find out, but the scripture is clear.

1:26:56: And then, so that's the time, he's, he's entering into the glorious land, and the abomination of desolation will be set up.

1:27:02: Now let's come to Daniel 12:1.

1:27:05: And at that time, the time we just read, the time of the antichrist, shall Mel stand up, the great prince which stands for the children of your people.

1:27:16: Who are the children of Daniel's people?

1:27:18: Daniel was a Jew.

1:27:19: Who are the children of his people?

1:27:22: The whole world is going to be divided in terms of who's for the covenant and understands it and supports the covenant people and who is indifferent.

1:27:33: Or hostile And Christ is going to divide nations based on this criteria, and he's going to judge us based on this criteria.

1:27:41: Replacement theology is a cancer.

1:27:43: It's a cancer that has to be rooted out of the church.

1:27:46: And separation theology, we have to resist it penetrating the church as people begin to realize, oh well, wait a minute, Jerusalem does matter.

1:27:56: He stands up for the children, so, so there are spiritual forces that are coming to stand up for this nation, despite their evil and wickedness because of Cassed, because of Agape, because of covenantal faithfulness.

1:28:09: And there shall be a time of trouble, notice this, such as never was since there was a nation.

1:28:16: In other words, this is national trouble.

1:28:19: This is not, this is going to be a time of trouble for individuals, the kind of trouble no individual has ever been through.

1:28:26: No, this is a national trouble, the likes of which no nation has ever suffered, because no nation has ever been in covenant with the great God and violated it like this.

1:28:37: You're in covenant with God and you choose to violate and defile the covenant, no nation's gonna suffer like you.

1:28:44: That's what this is saying.

1:28:46: Such as never was since there was a nation, even to that same time.

1:28:50: That time that's ahead of us, there's, there's, it's just, there's no historical record that has shown a nation to suffer like this.

1:28:56: But in the process, God is pleading with the Gentiles for his people.

1:29:01: And at that time, your people shall be delivered.

1:29:05: Why would that be?

1:29:06: They're evil.

1:29:06: They're wicked.

1:29:07: They violated the covenant, but they're his people.

1:29:10: And he's a covenant keeping God.

1:29:13: And that's the gospel.

1:29:14: That's what we preach.

1:29:16: Everyone that shall be found written in the book.

1:29:19: Paul says, not all Israel is Israel.

1:29:21: But they have to repent and come back to covenant.

1:29:25: And then verse 2, I've spoken on this previously about the resurrections.

1:29:29: Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth will wake up.

1:29:33: This is talking of Israelites, some to everlasting life.

1:29:38: And some to everlasting contempt.

1:29:41: Those are two different resurrections.

1:29:42: And let's conclude here, and this is the point, brethren.

1:29:45: This is why we cannot lose heart.

1:29:47: This is why we have to understand, wait a minute, if the unjust judge will respond to the widow, how much more will a God of covenant respond to us who are in His purpose?

1:30:00: Who understand the keeping of Pentecost is to acknowledge the receipt of the Holy Spirit, to do the purpose of God with structural integrity.

1:30:09: If the unjust judge will respond to the widow, how much more will God respond to us?

1:30:15: And what is our future in all of this darkness?

1:30:18: And they that be wise, shall shine as the brightness of the firmament.

1:30:24: This is a time of trouble, no nation has ever suffered this, and yet we're speaking comfort to that nation.

1:30:30: And we're turning that nation to righteousness, and we're calling Gentiles to join us in this purpose.

1:30:37: And we're turning many to righteousness.

1:30:39: We start small.

1:30:40: Don't despise the day of small things.

1:30:43: Acknowledge the power of the Holy Spirit which we celebrate tomorrow.

1:30:46: And as long as we have structural integrity, we will turn many to righteousness, and they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars, how long?

1:31:01: Forever and ever.

1:31:03: Brethren, do not be discouraged by prophecy, lean into the prophecy.

1:31:08: And do the work of God with the power of God, with the Spirit of God, with structural integrity, because this is our time to shine.

Summary and key points of the sermon

"https://rumble.com/v79xvwa-pastor-adrian-davis-our-time-to-shine-part-1.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp_a"

I wasn't able to locate a transcript or reliable summary of the specific Rumble sermon "**Pastor Adrian Davis – Our Time to Shine (Part 1)**". The web search only found the Rumble title and unrelated sermons by other pastors, but not a transcript or sermon notes for this message. Because I can't reliably access or transcribe the contents of that Rumble video, I don't want to invent or guess at the sermon's points.

If you would like a detailed analysis, one of these options will work well:

1. **Provide the sermon transcript** (or enable captions and paste them here).
2. **Upload the audio or video file** (or the downloaded audio).
3. **Share a portion of the transcript** if you only want certain sections summarized.

Once I have the content, I can provide:

- A 1-paragraph executive summary.
- 10–20 key points.
- The sermon's outline.
- Main Scripture passages (NKJV).
- Main arguments and supporting evidence.
- Underlying assumptions.
- Strengths and potential weaknesses.
- Practical applications.
- Discussion questions for a Bible study.
- Comparison with other biblical teachings and relevant NKJV passages.
- A one-page printable study guide.

Given your previous requests, I can also format it the same way I've analyzed other sermons and essays:

1. Executive Summary
2. Detailed Outline
3. Key Biblical Themes
4. Key Takeaways
5. Strengths
6. Assumptions
7. Potential Weaknesses
8. NKJV Scriptures that support or challenge each major point
9. Discussion Questions
10. Practical Christian Applications

If you upload the video or transcript, I can usually produce this complete analysis in one response.

A complete analysis of the file - Our Time to Shine.doc

Based on the transcript you uploaded, "Our Time to Shine " is a carefully structured sermon whose central thesis is that **the Church must develop spiritual structural integrity in order to endure persecution, fulfill its mission, and properly exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit during the increasingly difficult times preceding Christ's return.**

Below is a comprehensive analysis.

Executive Summary

Pastor Adrian Davis argues that Christians often misunderstand **endurance** as passive survival. Instead, biblical endurance is active participation in God's work until Christ returns. As society enters increasingly difficult prophetic times, churches require **strong spiritual structure** rather than merely enthusiastic believers.

Using the collapse of the Quebec Bridge as his central illustration, he argues that just as engineering failures cause physical death, weaknesses in church structure produce spiritual collapse. He contrasts **consumer Christianity** with **contributor Christianity**, arguing that every believer has been gifted by God to strengthen the body.

The sermon builds toward a biblical model of church organization involving both:

- vertical authority (Christ → elders → deacons → brethren)
- horizontal ministry (members serving according to spiritual gifts)

This structure prepares the church for persecution, preserves unity, protects joy, and allows the Holy Spirit to work effectively.

Primary Thesis

The central proposition is:

"Without structural integrity, the church cannot survive the pressures of the last days or fully manifest the power of the Holy Spirit."

Main Themes

1. Active Endurance

The sermon begins by redefining endurance.

Many Christians think endurance means:

- hanging on
- surviving
- waiting

Instead, biblical endurance means:

- continuing Christ's work
- remaining productive
- faithfully serving until His return

The church must remain active rather than merely defensive.

2. Darkness is Coming

The sermon repeatedly stresses that:

- Jacob's Trouble approaches

- persecution is coming
- believers should expect rejection
- society will increasingly oppose faithful Christians

However, this is not intended to produce fear.

Rather:

This is our opportunity to shine.

Christ warned His disciples beforehand so they would not be offended.

3. The Quebec Bridge Illustration

This becomes the governing metaphor.

Key lesson:

Engineering mistakes ignored

↓

Bridge collapse

↓

Loss of life

Likewise:

Ignoring spiritual weaknesses

↓

Church collapse

↓

Spiritual casualties

The Iron Ring symbolizes continual awareness that structure matters.

4. Consumer vs Contributor Christianity

One of the strongest sections.

Consumer Christian:

- attends
- critiques
- receives
- shops for churches
- evaluates others
- avoids responsibility

Contributor Christian:

- serves
- builds
- encourages
- exercises gifts
- strengthens others
- accepts covenant responsibility

The sermon argues churches become weak whenever members primarily consume rather than contribute.

5. Church as Household

Rather than a marketplace,

the church is:

- family
- covenant
- household
- body

Therefore members cannot simply leave whenever conflict appears.

Families work through conflict.

Consumers simply shop elsewhere.

6. Spiritual Gifts Exist to Build Others

The Holy Spirit is not merely for personal blessing.

Its purpose is:

- edification
- contribution
- service
- strengthening others

Every member possesses unique gifts.

No member is unnecessary.

No member is sufficient by himself.

7. Vertical and Horizontal Structure

Perhaps the sermon's most distinctive teaching.

Vertical:

Christ

↓

Elders

↓

Deacons

↓

Brethren

Horizontal:

Members exercising gifts together

This creates both:

authority

and

mutual ministry.

Both are necessary.

8. Authority Exists for Edification

Authority is presented not as domination but as:

- protection
- maturity
- unity
- shepherding

Healthy authority:

serves
develops
equips
protects
rather than controls.

Major Biblical Passages

The sermon is organized around several primary texts.

John 16

Purpose:

Christ prepares believers for persecution.

Matthew 5

Purpose:

Persecution is a blessing when suffered for righteousness.

James 1

Purpose:

Trials mature believers.

Ezekiel 33

Purpose:

Hearers must obey, not merely enjoy sermons.

1 Corinthians 11–12

Purpose:

The body requires functioning members rather than spectators.

Romans 12

Purpose:

Different gifts create one body.

Ephesians 4

Purpose:

The church possesses both authority and mutual ministry.

Hebrews 13

Purpose:

Submission to godly leadership.

2 Timothy 4

Purpose:

Leadership must teach, correct and rebuke.

1 Timothy 5

Purpose:

Faithful elders deserve honor.

Logical Flow

The sermon progresses logically.

1.

Dark times are coming.

↓

2.

Christ warned us beforehand.

↓

3.

Therefore endurance is required.

↓

4.

Endurance requires structure.

↓

5.

Structure requires contributors.

↓

6.

Contributors use gifts.

↓

7.

Gifts require organization.

↓

8.

Organization prepares the church to shine.

The sermon is unusually coherent.

Illustrations Used

The Quebec Bridge collapse

The Iron Ring

Broken family vs structured family

Consumer marketplace

Household family

Body parts

Engineering calculations

These illustrations reinforce one central idea:

Structure saves lives.

Strengths

Clear central thesis

Everything returns to one governing idea.

Excellent illustration

The engineering analogy is memorable.

Strong biblical integration

The sermon draws from:

John	Romans	Hebrews
Matthew	Corinthians	Timothy
James	Ephesians	Ezekiel

without appearing disconnected.

Practical application

The sermon continually asks:

"What kind of Christian am I?"

rather than merely teaching doctrine.

Covenant emphasis

The household model offers a compelling alternative to modern consumer Christianity.

Underlying Assumptions

The sermon assumes:

- prophetic persecution is approaching
- churches will face increasing hostility
- covenant theology requires active responsibility
- spiritual gifts remain active today
- church leadership is divinely appointed
- healthy authority is necessary
- God intentionally places every believer within a congregation

These assumptions shape the sermon's conclusions.

Potential Weaknesses or Areas of Debate

From a broader Christian perspective, some points could be questioned.

1. Prophetic Framework

The sermon assumes a particular prophetic understanding regarding:

- Jacob's Trouble
- Israel
- persecution timeline

Christians from other eschatological traditions may disagree.

2. Church Government

The proposed three-level model

Christ

↓

Elders

↓

Deacons



Brethren

reflects one ecclesiological perspective.

Other traditions understand church leadership differently.

3. Strong Authority Language

Although balanced with safeguards, the emphasis upon submission to leadership may concern readers from traditions wary of authoritarian abuses.

To the speaker's credit, he repeatedly insists authority is limited by Scripture and conscience.

4. Consumer/Contributor Dichotomy

The contrast is powerful but somewhat simplified.

In practice, believers often move along a spectrum rather than fitting neatly into one category.

Practical Applications

The sermon encourages believers to:

- discover their spiritual gifts
 - actively serve
 - strengthen relationships
 - embrace correction
 - contribute to congregational health
 - prepare spiritually for persecution
 - value biblical authority
 - avoid church consumerism
 - build covenant relationships
 - pursue maturity
-

Memorable Quotes (Paraphrased)

- Structure is not theoretical; when structure fails, people die.
 - This is not our time to hide—it is our time to shine.
 - We were not purchased "as is"; God purchased us for what we are to become.
 - Every believer is either a consumer or a contributor.
 - The church is a household, not a marketplace.
 - Joy is protected by structure.
 - The Holy Spirit equips believers to build one another, not merely themselves.
-

Overall Evaluation

Biblical depth: ★★★★★

Logical organization: ★★★★★

Illustrations: ★★★★★

Practical application: ★★★★★

Pastoral encouragement: ★★★★★☆

Theological specificity: ★★★★★☆ (reflects a distinct ecclesiological and prophetic framework)

Overall, the sermon is well organized, consistently argued, and rich in biblical exposition. Its strongest contribution is its sustained emphasis that **spiritual maturity depends on healthy church structure, active participation by every believer, and preparation for faithful service during increasingly challenging times**. Even readers who differ on aspects of prophecy or church governance can benefit from its call to move from passive attendance to active, gift-based service within the body of Christ.

Discussion Questions: "Our Time to Shine – Part 1"

Section 1 – Endurance and the Times We Live In

1. How does the sermon redefine "endurance" compared with the way many Christians think about it?
2. What is the difference between passive endurance and active endurance?
3. Why do you think Jesus warned His disciples about persecution before it happened? (John 16)
4. How should Christians prepare themselves mentally and spiritually for increasing opposition?
5. What dangers exist if Christians focus only on surviving rather than serving?

Section 2 – Structural Integrity

6. Why do you think Pastor Davis chose the Quebec Bridge collapse as his primary illustration?
7. What spiritual "structural failures" can weaken a congregation?
8. Can you think of examples where small unresolved problems eventually became major church problems?
9. Why is it often tempting to ignore obvious weaknesses in ourselves or our congregation?
10. What does "structural integrity" look like in a healthy church?

Section 3 – Consumer Christianity vs. Contributor Christianity

11. How would you define a "consumer Christian"?
12. How would you define a "contributor Christian"?
13. Why is consumerism such a powerful influence in modern churches?
14. Have you ever found yourself approaching church more as a consumer than as a contributor?

15. What practical changes would help someone move from consumer to contributor?

Section 4 – The Church as a Household

- 16. What differences exist between viewing the church as a family versus viewing it as an organization?
 - 17. Why does covenant commitment change how Christians handle conflict?
 - 18. How does a family mindset promote long-term spiritual growth?
 - 19. Why do people sometimes leave churches instead of working through problems?
 - 20. How can congregations strengthen a genuine sense of spiritual family?
-

Section 5 – Spiritual Gifts

- 21. According to Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12, why does God give spiritual gifts?
 - 22. How can spiritual gifts be misused?
 - 23. Why does Paul emphasize that every member is necessary?
 - 24. How can a church help members discover their gifts?
 - 25. What gifts do you believe God may have given you?
-

Section 6 – Authority and Structure

- 26. Why does Scripture include church leadership if every believer has the Holy Spirit?
 - 27. What is the difference between biblical authority and authoritarian leadership?
 - 28. Why is humility essential for both leaders and members?
 - 29. How can leaders exercise authority in ways that build trust?
 - 30. What safeguards help prevent abuse of authority?
-

Section 7 – Unity

- 31. Why does unity require more than simply agreeing with each other?
 - 32. What role does speaking "the truth in love" play in maintaining unity?
 - 33. Why is avoiding conflict different from resolving conflict?
 - 34. How can disagreements strengthen rather than weaken a congregation?
 - 35. What habits promote long-term unity?
-

Section 8 – Persecution

- 36. Why does Jesus call those persecuted for righteousness "blessed"?
 - 37. How should Christians respond when falsely accused?
 - 38. Why does Scripture connect suffering with spiritual maturity?
 - 39. What attitudes will help believers remain faithful under pressure?
 - 40. How can churches prepare one another before persecution arrives?
-

Personal Reflection

- 41. Which illustration from the sermon impacted you most? Why?
- 42. Where do you see evidence of consumer thinking in your own life?
- 43. What contribution has God uniquely equipped you to make?
- 44. What "miscalculations" in your own life need correction before they become larger problems?

45. What practical step could you take this week to strengthen your congregation?

Leadership Discussion

- 46. Does our congregation function more like a family or like an organization?
 - 47. Are members encouraged to discover and use their gifts?
 - 48. Are responsibilities delegated according to gifting or merely according to position?
 - 49. What strengths already exist in our congregational structure?
 - 50. What structural weaknesses should we address now rather than later?
-

Application Exercise

Have each participant complete these statements:

- One truth I learned today is...
 - One assumption I need to examine is...
 - One area where I need to contribute more is...
 - One gift I believe God has given me is...
 - One person I can encourage this week is...
 - One structural strength I appreciate in our congregation is...
 - One practical action I will take before next Sabbath is...
-

Advanced Bible Study Questions

1. Compare the church metaphors in **Romans 12**, **1 Corinthians 12**, **Ephesians 4**, and **1 Peter 2**. What unique emphasis does each passage contribute to understanding the church?
2. How do **John 16**, **Matthew 5:10–12**, **James 1:2–4**, and **2 Timothy 3:12** collectively shape a biblical theology of persecution?
3. What biblical evidence supports the idea that authority exists primarily for **edification rather than domination** (e.g., **Matthew 20:25–28**, **2 Corinthians 10:8**, **1 Peter 5:1–4**)?
4. How do the "one another" commands of the New Testament reinforce the sermon's distinction between contributor and consumer Christianity?
5. What can be learned from the successes and failures of churches in **Acts** and **Revelation 2–3** regarding structural integrity, spiritual maturity, and perseverance?

These questions are designed to move participants beyond simply understanding the sermon to evaluating their own spiritual growth and their role in strengthening the body of Christ.