

**To the Servants of the Most High God at Topeka, Kansas, Sunday,  
September 28, 2025**

**Hold That Fast Which Thou Hast, That No Man Take Thy Crown –  
Part 2**

*It is said, we must accommodate the Gospel message to the tempo and views of the current age. Not so. God's standards cannot be trimmed, altered, or modified in anyway. He changes not. The solution is not to pamper this immensely adulteress and sinful flesh-catering age. The solution is rather to nail the colors to the mast. God's commandments, methods and judgments cannot be improved upon in the least. The cure only comes with the proper diagnosis and treatment. No, we are commanded to: Cry aloud, spare not and lift up thy voices like a trumpet and show the people their transgression and the house of Jacob their sin. We are charged to preach the Word and be instant, in season and out of season and to reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. We need to exalt God's timeless and perfect standards without the hint of compromise or apology. Never mind how drastic the message may seem to the current hell bound satanic generation. Stay true to the Word of God, doubting nothing, pray without ceasing and preach God's words with the boldness of a jungle lion.*

*Adapted from a quote from Fred Phelps.*

Adapted from *Saints Everlasting Rest*, Richard Baxter

I beseech you below to thoughtfully consider why you should pursue the Godly and spiritual labor now and not delay. Consider these reasons, not by the sheer number of them, but by the weight and importance of them. *Set thy heart to all the words that I testify to thee this day; for it is not a vain thing, but it is for thy life.*" (Deut. 32:46).

## 8. FAITHFULLY BEAR THE CHASTENINGS OF GOD

Consider, what haste should they make who have rods at their backs, and how painfully should be their work, who are driven on by such sharp afflictions: if either they wander out of the way, or loiter in it, how surely do they prepare for their own painful smarting!

*Heb. 12:5-8 My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

Aren't we ready to receive the chastening and scourging of God now, willingly and voluntarily, knowing we shall mourn now, but be comforted in the next life (Mat. 5:4)? Don't we want to receive our evil things now, and be comforted in the next life (Luke 16:26)? Therefore, beloved, we should happily bear our infirmities, afflictions and persecutions now. *2 Cor. 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.* Don't lay your armor down when the rod and chastening's are on our backs. Don't become weary in well doing but instead endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ and bear the chastening and reproach as He did (2 Tim. 2:3). The servant is never greater than the master (Mat. 10:24).

## 9. THE FAITHFUL PREPARATION FOR THE ELECT

How close should they ply their work, who have such great preparations attending them as we have! All the world are our servants, that we may be the servants of God. The sun, moon, and stars, attend us with their light and

influence. Judges 5:20 *They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.* The earth, with all its furniture, is at our service. How many thousand plants, and flowers, and fruits, and birds, and beasts, do all attend us! The sea, with its inhabitants; the air, the wind, the frost and snow, the heat and fire, the clouds and rain, all wait upon us while we do our work. Yea, the angels are ministering spirits for the service of the elect. Heb 4:13 *But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?* And is it not an intolerable crime for us to trifle, while all these are employed to assist us? Every aspect of our DNA and life are carefully planned. Luke 12: 6 *Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? 7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.* And should we waste away the precious time we have been given? Nay, more, the patience and goodness of God do wait upon us; the Holy Ghost helps, striving with our backward hearts; besides, all his servants, the ministers of his Gospel, who study and wait, and preach and wait, and pray and wait, upon careless sinners: and shall angels and men, yea, the Lord himself, stand by and look on; and, as it were, hold the candle while thou do nothing? O Christians, I beseech you, whenever you are upon your knees in prayer, or reproving the transgressors, or exhorting the obstinate and stubborn, or upon any duty, do but remember what attendants you have for this work; and then judge how it behoves you to perform it. AND, our younger people, have an absolute wealth of elderly experience and resources to tap, listen to and hear!

## **10. LOVE AND SERVE GOD WITH ALL THY HEART**

Mr 12:30 *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.* Should not our affections and endeavors be answerable to the acknowledged principles of our Christian profession? Should we not serve

Christ with the very best of what we have to offer. Runners run, servers serve. Should we not pursue Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength? God is the chief Good, and all our happiness consists in His love; and therefore, it should be valued and sought above all things. He is our Lord, and therefore, chiefly to be served. The very business that men have in the world, and the only errand that God sent them about, is to glorify God, and hope to obtain salvation. And do men's duties and manner of life, heartily second this profession? Are these doctrines seen in the painfulness of men's practice; or rather, do not their works deny what their words do confess? One would think, by men's actions, that they did not believe a word of the Gospel to be true. Oh, sad day, when men's own tongues and professions shall be brought in against them and condemn them! Runners run and servers serve, but if you have chosen to not run or serve in God's army, but pursue fleshly idleness and sin your actions betray you no matter what your profession is.

## **11. WE CAN NEVER SERVE GOD ENOUGH**

How hard working and resourceful should we be in the work of serving God? How much of our effort does He deserve? It is a sure thing that we can never do enough to serve the Great and Terrible God. Ne 1:5 ... *I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments. Da 9:4 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love Him, and to them that keep His commandments.* If we had an eternity, could we ever do enough to properly serve Him with the dignity and honor and work He deserves? Rev. 4:10 *The four and twenty elders fall down before Him that sat on the throne, and worship Him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. De 4:24 For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. He and He alone is the Inhabiter of Eternity (Isaiah 57:15).*

If there were any danger in over-doing, then it might well cause men to moderate their endeavors; but we know, that if we could do all, we were but unprofitable servants (Luke 17:10). Can a man possibly pray too much, or preach too much, or hear or reprove too much? Can a man obey or serve God too much? The world would have you believe that faithfully and diligently serving God is folly and that it is a waste of time and effort to serve Christ. They are mad, lost and blind to spiritual things. 1 Cor. 26 *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:.*

## **12. The Love of God Makes Haste**

It is the nature of the Elect to put on the soul to diligence and speed. If you truly loved God, you would make haste and not delay or trifle. You would think nothing too much that you could possibly do. True love is a fire in your belly. Rev. 2:4 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.* You would be ambitious to serve him, and please him still more: love is passionate, quick and impatient, it is active and observant. If you loved Christ, you would keep his commandments and not accuse them of too much strictness. (John 1:4, 15:23.) So also, if you had faith, it would quicken and encourage you. If you had the hope of glory, it would, as the spring in the watch, set all the wheels of your souls a going. If you had the fervent fear of God, it would rouse you out of your slothfulness. If you had a zeal for God, it would inflame you and eat you up. God hath put all his graces in the soul, on purpose to be oil to the wheels, to be life to the dead, to mind men of their duty, and dispose them to it, and to carry them to himself; so that, in what degree soever thou art sanctified, in the same degree thou wilt be serious and laborious in the work of God.

### 13. All Run in a Race, But One Receiveth the Prize

1Co 9:24 *Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.* The verse doesn't say that all that run the race, receiveth the prize. Paul references the Olympic games here. The Holy Spirit used limiting language, not expansive; not "God loves everyone, no exceptions" language. That's a fact. Consider, they that trifle in the way to heaven, do but lose all their labor, when serious endeavors do obtain their end. If two be running a race, he that runs slowest had as good as never run at all; for, now, he loses the prize and his labor. Mat. 7:21 *Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

God hath set the rate at which the pearl must be bought; if you bid a penny less than that rate, you might as well bid nothing. Oh, how many faux, lukewarm (Rev. 3:16) professors of Christianity will find this true, to their sorrow, who have had a mind to the ways of God, and have kept up a dull task of duty, and plodded on in a formal, lifeless profession, but never came to serious Christianity? "*Many shall seek to enter, and shall not be able*" (Luke 13:24,) therefore if you have a heart to know and an ear to hear or eye to see, put to a little more diligence and strength, that you not be a cast away.

Eze. 33:13 *When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.*

Heb. 10: 38-39 *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

Runners run to receive the prize, so you must be running (i.e., work, action, dedication, enduring suffering, patience, hope).

## 14. Life is Short and Partially Gone Already

We have lost a great deal of precious time already. We can't go back in time. We have to redeem the time now. Because we have lost time already it is reason that we labor so much the harder now. If a traveler do sleep or trifle out most of the day, he must travel so much faster in the evening, or else he is likely to fall short of his journey's end. With some of us, our childhood and youth is gone; with some of us our middle age is past; for some of us we are in the sunset of our lives and death draws nigh and the precious time left before us is very uncertain and short. Alive today and dead tomorrow. What amount of time have we slept away or wasted?

*Proverbs 26:13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets. 14 As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed. 15 The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.*

*Rev. 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night.* There is no sleep or rest for the wicked. The righteous will have their everlasting rest in Christ, but it's not sleep. How much of your time on earth, have you talked away, sinned away or played away? What amount of time have you spent in pure idleness, or worse in worldly thoughts and labors? And how little of our work for God is done? And is it not time now to bestir ourselves in the evening of our days? The time which we have lost can never be recalled: should we not then redeem it by improving the little which remaineth? You may receive, indeed, an equal recompense with those that have borne the burden and heat of the day, though you came not in till the last hour; but then you must be sure to labor soundly that hour. Labor with all you have now, before it is too late. It is surely enough that we have lost so much of our lives; let us not now be so foolish as to lose the rest. 1 Pet. 4:2-4 - *Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves*

*likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. 3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:*

## **15. Sow and Reap Bountifully**

*2 Cor. 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. The greater you're laying out, the greater your coming in will be. This is a spiritual matter! We don't want anything from anyone for our sake, but as Paul said... Php 4:17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. Though you may seem to lose your labor at present, yet the hour comes when you shall find it with advantage. The seed which is buried will bring forth a plentiful increase at the harvest. Whatever you do, and whatever you suffer, this everlasting rest will pay for all. There will be no repenting of labors and sufferings in heaven; none says, 'Would I had spared my pains, and prayed less, or been less strict and precise, and did as the rest of my neighbors did!' There is never such a thought in heaven as this. But, on the contrary, it will be their joy to look back upon their labors and tribulations, and to consider how the mighty power of God did bring them through it all and that in the long run what they experienced on earth in retrospect was but a light affliction and but for a moment. 2Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*

Whoever complained that he came to heaven at too dear a rate, or that his salvation cost him more labor than it was worth? Rom. 8:18 *For I reckon that the sufferings (and labors) of this present time, are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.*" We labour but for a moment, but we shall rest for ever. Who would not put forth all his strength for one hour, when

he may be a prince while he lives for that hour's work? Oh! what is the duty and suffering of a short frail life, which is almost at an end as soon as it begins, in respect of the endless joys with God? Will not all our tears then be wiped away, and all the sorrows of our duties forgotten? but yet the Lord will not forget them; *"for he is not unjust to forget our work and labour of love."* (Heb. 6:10.)

## **16. The Violent Take it by Force**

Mat. 11:12 *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.* Gill: "Who were under violent apprehensions of wrath and vengeance, of their lost and undone state and condition by nature; were violently in love with Christ, and eagerly desirous of salvation by him, and communion with him; and had their affections set upon the things of another world."

Violence and laborious striving for salvation, is the way that the wisdom of God hath directed us for our good, and as His sovereign authority hath appointed for us as necessary. Passive inert wanderings will not secure the heavenly kingdom. Who knows the way to heaven better than the God of heaven. When this generation endlessly ridicules and attacks us and tells us that we are too focused on the Word of God and too strict and precise and do quote the Scriptures too much, whom do they accuse, God or us? (A foul-mouthed man as a recent ELCA picket said to Issac, *All you do quoting b@!%#-a\$\$ scripture.*" Analyze that for a minute!)

If we do no more than what we are commanded, (Luke 17:19,) they may as well say, God hath made laws which are too strict, too precise and too hard. Surely, if it were a fault, it would lie in Him that commands it, and not in us who are bound to obey. And dare these men think that they are wiser than God? Do they know better, what men must do to be saved? These are the men that ask us whether we are wiser than all the world besides, and yet they will pretend to be wiser than God. *You and you alone are the only ones in the whole world that know best and are saved and the whole rest of the world is damned.*

What do they less, when God bids us take the most diligent course, and they tell us it is more ado than needs? Mark well the language of the laws of God, and see how you can reconcile it with the language of the world. Mat. 11:12 *The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.* Luke 16:16 *Every one presseth into it.* Luke 13:24 *Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many shall seek to enter in, and shall not be able.* Eccl 9:10 *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might, for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest.* 2 Tim. 2:5 *If a man strive for masteries, yet he is not crowned except he strive lawfully."*

This is the constant language of Christ; and which shall I follow, God or men? Yea, and that the worst and most wicked men? Let them bring all the seeming worldly reasons that they can against the holy, violent striving of the saints, and this suffices me to confute them all, that God is of another mind, and He hath commanded me to do much more than I do; and though I could see no reason for it, yet His will is reason enough to me. I am sure God is worthy to govern us, if we were better than we are. Who should make laws for us, but he that made us? And who should line out the way to heaven, but he that must bring us thither? And who should determine on what conditions we shall be saved, but he that bestows the gift of salvation? So that let world, or flesh, or devil, speak against a holy, laborious course, this is my answer, 'God hath commanded it.'

I love you all. Amen.