



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



God is Speaking. Are we listening?

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Bob Bradley

- 1 Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:
- 1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;
- 1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
- 1 Peter 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,
- 1 Peter 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Peter is writing. He wrote this book. Peter, we know that he was a fisherman. We know that he had a fishing business. We know that he lived in Bethsaida. We know that he lived on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. We know that he lived up in around Capernaum. We know that he was fishing one day and cleaning up some stuff and cleaning up his nets. We know that Jesus walked by and called him. We know that he began to follow Jesus. The Bible says that he forsook his nets and went and followed Him.

We know that as you read the life of Peter; we know that Peter was not a perfect guy. He made some mistakes. Before you get on the bandwagon of beating him too much you may just want to look back over the last 24 hours of your life. Do you know what you will figure out? We have issues too. We have problems.

Peter was a fisherman. Peter was a rough and rugged guy. Peter sometimes spoke before he put his brain in gear as I do sometimes. We know that he was there when Jesus died. We know that he was there. We know that Jesus appeared unto him after He arose from the dead. We know that Peter did some repenting. Jesus called and told him what He was going to do. He commissioned him to do some great things.

We know that 50 days after Jesus arose from the dead was Pentecost. We know that the Spirit of God and Peter preached and thousands of people were saved. We know that was probably in 33 AD or so.

Peter is writing to these folks that are scattered all over the known world at that time. Actually, he tells where they are from here if you want to read verse one. He is writing

somewhere around 64 or 65 AD; so, some 30 years or so after Jesus has died here. He is writing this book. He is writing to people that were going through issues and problems. They were having temptations. Just in a short time, if you read history, if you just read secular history; you will find out that many Christians, just a few short years after this—they were burned at the stake. We know that some of the very cruel and demonic people that ruled the world during that time would take Christians and tie them to poles and put some kind of flammable liquid upon them and set them on fire just to light their way into their cities. They would throw them to lions. They would do all kinds of horrible things. Peter was writing unto people that were going to be facing some of those temptations that were going to come.

The thought I have tonight is how—there is no doubt in my mind that Peter also had this as he was going to be teaching the people here. How do we get through that? How do we being Christian people, do we get through trials and temptations and all the pressures of the world when they come—How do we get through that? How do we make it through that? We can't make it in our own strength. We cannot do that.

Peter is going to tell us here that if we are going to get through those times in our life when we are in a battle for our spiritual life, when people are bombarding and the world is bombarding, and when it feels like it is all closing in and is going to crush the life out of us; there is only one way that we can get through this and that is by fearing the God of heaven. There is no other way folks. There is no other way that we can get through trials and temptations—and you will get what I am talking about here in a moment—without fearing the God of heaven. We must fear—not afraid of Him as you are afraid of a dog, or a snake, or something like that. That is not the kind of fear that Peter is talking about. The word fear here that he is using means a reverence and to have a reverence for the power that God has. To stand in awe of God's power, and God's knowledge, and God's wisdom, and God's judgement and also God's wrath. But we look at that and we stand at awe and we know who God is. We know that God is the One who holds us in His hand. We know that God is the only One and we reverence Him. We understand that He is omnipotent and He is omnipresent and He is all-knowing and all-seeing, and He is a very wise God. Since we know all of that and since we know that He is the God that hates sin then we fear Him.

When we fear Him—get this—when I actually fear God and when you actually fear God then your life is going to prove that you fear God. How that you live is going to prove whether you actually fear God or not.

Get this. If you openly rebel against the God of heaven. You go out and sin with your eyes wide open and you know what you are doing and you know it is wrong and you go ahead and do it anyways—you don't fear God. Do you know why? Because God, we know if we do those things that are not right we know that God is going to judge us for those things. If I fear God then I am not going to be doing that. If you fear God then you are not going to be doing that.

If we are going to be to overcome the temptations, trials, and the struggles when they come then we have to fear God. We must fear God. When we do that we will fear Him. We will dread Him. We will sit at awe at Him. We will stand at awe at His presence. We will stand at awe when we pray and seek the face of God and God answers prayer then we will fear Him. We will see and look at the storms that we see, that we see all around the world, and all the things that we call nature but yet we know that there is an awesome God out there somewhere that is in control of these things. We stand at awe and we reverence Him.

Get this. If we don't reverence God—get this, write it down—you are not worshipping God. If you are not reverencing and standing at awe of Almighty God then you are not worshipping Almighty God. If you do not fear the God of heaven, then you are not worshipping the God of heaven. It is impossible. You cannot do it. You won't do it. You will not let the Lord be the master of your life if you are not fearing God. You won't do that.

Listen. If you think that you can sin, and sin, and sin and sin and some way some how you are going to go to heaven with your sin, if you think and you really deceive yourself into thinking that then you are not worshipping God. Amen! There are all kinds of denominations in our world that will teach you just sign the card and we will baptize you. Send us some money. Visit us every now and then. Somewhere along the line before you die you are just automatically going to be saved. That is not right. That is a lie. You can't go to heaven that way.

When we fear God—you know, I feared my dad. I had a reverence for my dad. When my dad spoke, do you know what I knew? I had better listen to him. I appreciate that my dad is dead and gone now, but when my dad spoke and he told me to do this and I did not do it then do you know what I knew was coming? He was going to wear me out. He was going to take his belt or whatever he had and he was going to wear my backside out.

I do think children would a whole lot better off today if we did that today. Amen! Like that or lump that. That is true.

I feared him because I knew that if I did not reverence him—again, I was not afraid of him. We wrestled and fought and boxed and had all kinds—but I knew that when he said, "Hey, let's get this done." I knew it was time to get it done. I knew if I did not get it done then there were going to be repercussions.

God is the same way. God is—the God of the Bible is the same way.

Listen. If you think you are going to slip into heaven, you are wrong. The only place you are going to slip into is hell. Keep that in mind.

Listen. If you don't reverence God then you can't worship God. I am going to say something else then I am going to get to what I want to talk about. The only hope that mankind has is to fear God. If you don't fear God then you will never get saved. I know

that we are saved by grace through faith. I know that God's mercy is wonderful. I know all of that. However, if we never stand at awe, if we never fear the God of heaven, if we never are afraid that we are going to slip into a lake of fire; do you know what we will never do? We will never live for Him. We will never get saved. We will never worship Him. If you think you can go to heaven without getting saved, and you convince yourself of that and you deceive yourself into believing that then you are going to walk that way. That is the way you are going to walk in life.

Listen. The only hope for mankind is for them to give—fear is all the hope they have. If we do not have fear, and we do not stand at awe of God, and if we don't stand and recognize who He is then do you know what happens to us? We get out of line.

Do you know what happens to children when they have no respect for dad and mom? They do whatever they want to do. amen! They do whatever they want to do if they have no respect dad and mom. The same thing with Almighty God; when we don't respect then we get ourselves in big time trouble. Do you know what we need? We need to fear God. If we are going to live on this earth and we are going to be able to overcome the temptations and trials when they come—and they are going to come. The closer we get to the return of Jesus Christ, the more of them there are going to be. The more they are going to come. The more the pressures are going to be put on us as we live here. If we are going to be able to overcome them and have a victorious life then we are going to have to fear the God of heaven.

Since we are children of God; it says here in verse 17...

1 Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:

In other words, when you look at that in the Greek the word *if* is since. Since you call God your father—do you know what we should do? We should reverence Him. That makes all kinds of sense. Since we are saying that God of heaven is our Father then we automatically should worship Him. We should reverence Him. We should stand at awe of Him since we call upon Him and we call Him our Father. We should do that. Children should reverence their father. We are children of Almighty God. He is our Father; then we should reverence Him and worship Him. We should stand at awe of Him. We should live in a life that we respect Him. Amen! When we call Him our Father and He is our Father, then do you know what I won't want to do? I won't live in a way that is going to bring dishonor to my Father.

When I was home and when I got out on my own; I did some things that dishonored dad and even my name. Maybe you never did but I did that a few times, before I got saved. I wasn't proud of it after I did it.

Do you know what? As Christian people we should never live in a way that we bring disgrace to the God of heaven. If we are saved, we should live... If we are saved and

since we call God our Father then we should reverence and worship and stand at awe and honor Him. We are His children.

Not only that but we are to reverence God, not only because we call Him our Father...

1 Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:

Not only do we call upon God the Father and since we call upon Him and call Him our Father; we should reverence Him. We also should reverence Him and fear Him because we know it is God that we are going to stand before one day. It is not going to be a counsel. It is not going to be the ordaining council from some Baptist church. It is not going to be in front of the pope or in front of the president. When you and I leave this life and—get this—everyone of you has got a date that you are going to stand individually before Almighty God. Everyone of us! since we know that then we should live in reverence to Almighty God. That should be a motivating factor in my life that I worship Him and reverence and honor Him because I know that one day I have a date, I have an appointment that I am going to stand all by myself before Almighty God and you are too.

Get this. He said here...

1 Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:

God does not have any favorites. Amen! When it comes to judgement, and when judgement time comes; God does not have any favorites. You are either saved or you are lost. Amen! You are saved by grace through faith. If we reverence Him, worship Him, and fear Him then when we stand before God we will stand there at the judgement seat of Christ. No. We won't have anything to offer. No. We won't have anything to brag about. Do you know what we won't hear? We won't hear the dreadful words "Depart from me you workers of iniquity, I never knew you." You will not hear that. God has no respect of persons. God does not respect one nationality above others. God does not respect any position more than He does the others as far as judgement goes. Amen! Some of us have different responsibilities. Most definitely. When it comes to judgement, when it comes time to stand before Almighty God we are all going to be judged by the same thing. Do you know what that is? The Bible says our works. I just read that to you. Now that scares some of you. It should scare us sometimes. The Bible says here...

1 Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:

Do you really think that is in the Bible? Do you really think that maybe Peter misspoke when he put that in there? No. He did not.

If we worship, if we reverence Almighty God, if we have been saved by grace through faith and we have faith in Jesus Christ then there is going to be works in our life that is going to prove that I have been saved by grace through faith. Those works are going to prove that.

When you leave here, when you go home—everybody can put on a good show for an hour and a half—when we go home and when nobody else is around, and all the other hours of the week that we live when we are not in church—what are we doing? What are we doing? What occupies our time and our mind? What is it that we think about? I know we have jobs. I know we have to do all of that. I understand that. What is it that we do? Do we do anything that brings glory to God? Do you we have works that when we stand before Almighty God, God can say, “Hey, that was a good one. You did good there.” Is there anything there.

It is one thing to come to church. We come here to worship God. We come here because we love Him and we reverence Him and we fear Him and we want to speak good things about Him. That is why we come here. If this is all there is in your life then you don't have much. Amen! If there is all there is then you don't have much.

I'm not being mean or hard.

I want you to live in a way that you can be blessed. I want you to live in a way that when you get on your knees and go in your prayer closet like Granny mentioned the other night; when you go in your prayer closet and you shut the door and you start pouring your heart out to God, I want God to show up and be in your life. When you ask prayer and you pray for your family and your children and your grandchildren and for yourself that God would bless you; I want God to show up in your life.

You can't do that if this is all there is. The greatest preacher in the world and I know if we were counting them I would be at the bottom... I am going to tell you something. You have Billy Graham—he's gone now. You can have the greatest preachers and pastors that has ever lived. You hear them. If this is all you have then you don't get very far in your Christian life.

I'm not saying you are not saved. I'm not saying you are not going to heaven. But I am saying that you are not receiving and you are not enjoying what you could be enjoying. There is nothing like answered prayer. There is nothing like getting alone with God and having God show up. There is nothing like that. There is nothing like having God flood your heart and your soul and this body from the top of your head to the sole of your feet with His glorious presence. There is nothing like that. You can experience that. But you have to do some things at home. You have to do some praying at home. You have to read your Bible at home. That is why I have been trying to get you to read your Bible. It is making a difference in your lives. I can see it. I can see God transforming you. I

can see God changing you. That is what the Word of God does. God is speaking. Are we listening?

Come and pray—