



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



God Has a Plan for Your Life

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Bob Bradley

This morning, just for a few minutes; the Lord being our helper, we want to talk about some things here today that will remind us and to give us a little bit of understanding on some things in life when they come. I want to read, if you want to turn your Bibles to the book of Romans chapter 8 and verse 28. It is a very familiar passage of scripture. **It does not say what we say it says sometimes.**

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Paul is writing and speaking to the church in Rome when he made that statement. He makes the statement, he says...

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

The first thing I want to say this morning that in life, everything is not always good. Does everybody get that? Paul did not say that. Paul did not say that everything was always good, but he did say that all things work together for good. Got that?

Sometimes in life we think that everything is always going to be good, even after we get saved. Sometimes we think that everything is always going to be great, everything is going to be good, everything is always going to work out right. However, it does not always work out that way. Does it? Do you know how we know that? Because everybody sitting here this morning knows that. Not everything, not every day, not every issue of every day is always good. In itself it is not always good. Truth!

Paul did not say it was always good. What he said was...

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Does everybody get that?

In life—I thought about the Apostle Paul. I thought him when you look and read the book of Acts. Saul was the guy—when you read the book of Acts do you know what you will find out. He was the guy that was very smart and intelligent. He was a guy that was a Pharisee. He was a very religious guy. However, he was not saved at all.

We know that when we read the Bible, the book of Acts; we know that Saul was standing there when they stoned Stephen to death. We know that those that were

stoning Stephen; they laid their coats down, the Bible says at a young man's feet whose name was Saul. Did everybody read that? That is where this guy was at.

The first thing I want to say this morning is this. Do you know what God can do? God can take the meanest, the hardest, the ugliest, the evilest, and vile person and make something out of them. Do you know how I know that? I have read the book. I know what it says. I know that if I look back on my own life then I understand what God can do and how God can change us.

Do you know what I thought about Paul? The Bible tells us when we read the book, he was going down the road. He had gone to the chief priests. He had gone there. They had given him authority to go anywhere that he went that he had the authority, the warrants in his pockets that he could arrest people and bring them back. He could even put them to death. We know that he did that. We know that no doubt, there were many people that had all kinds of problems because of this guy called Saul. Do you know what? God had a different plan.

Listen. Just because things are not going right in your life today, just because it is all falling apart today; it does not mean that God does not have a plan because God does have a plan.

The Bible says that he was on his road. He was traveling the road. He was going to a certain city. He was going to go there to arrest people who believed in Jesus Christ. The Bible says, when you read the book you will find out that as he was going down the road, suddenly there was a great light shined down from heaven and there was a voice that began to speak unto Saul. He said, "Saul, Saul why persecutest thou me?" Do you know what Saul did? The Bible tells us that Saul said, "Lord what would you have me to do?" The Bible says the Lord told him, "You go on down into town and find a guy down there. You go and you stay with him. I'm going to send somebody down your way."

God has got people everywhere.

Listen. The Bible says that Saul gets up from the ground. He is blind. He cannot see anything. The Bible says that they get him by the hands and they lead down the road towards Damascus. Do you know what God has got? God has got a plan. He speaks to a guy by the name of Ananias. Do you remember him? God spoke to him and said, "I want you to go down and talk to a guy by the name of Saul." He prays. Do you know what Ananias said? He said, "Wait a minute Lord, surely that can't be right. Surely you don't want me to go talk to this guy that has killed people, that has arrested people and he has come down to arrest people." Do you know what God said? He said, "You go down there and tell him that I have a plan for his life." Do you know what Ananias did? He goes down and he finds Saul. Do you know what happens my friend? Saul receives Jesus Christ. They take him and baptize him. The scales fall from his eyes and a new life began for the Apostle Paul.

Listen. You may be a very mean, vile, wicked sinner today, but there is nothing too bad, and there is nothing too big for our God to forgive and to cleanse. Do you know how I know that? I know some of you all. I know me. I know where I have been and what God has done.

Something happens. Saul is now Paul. Paul's name means little. I don't know how big he was. I don't have any idea. You read stories. I don't always believe all of that because they tell me Jesus was a hippy. I don't believe that either.

Here Saul is now. He has been saved. He has been born again. A guy that nobody is going to like now. The Jews are going to hate him because they are thinking he has defected and he really has from what they had been teaching and what he had been teaching. Those that are saved are going to be afraid of him because did this guy really get saved, or is he trying to trick us.

Here is what happens. The Bible tells us that Paul begins to preach in their synagogues. God has not only saved him, but He has changed him and he begins to preach. He begins to preach Christ that He is the Son of God. Do you know what? Great things begin to happen. When you read the Bible do you know what you will find out? You are going to find out that after a while, do you know what they did? He preaches. He taught people that Jesus was the very Christ. You would think when people's lives begin to change and people begin to get saved; you would have thought that everybody would just be fine and that everybody was going to love him.

I want you think about something this morning. Just because you are saved today doesn't mean that everybody is going to love you. It doesn't mean that everybody is going to like you. Do you know what? Not everybody loves Jesus Christ. They may be religious but not everybody is following the Lord today.

The Bible says that Paul preaches in the synagogues. He is telling people that Jesus is the Christ. Things go well for a while. Something happens. He wasn't planning on it. He wasn't expecting it. But something happened. Do you know what the Jews start to do? They are going to kill him. Just because he is preaching the gospel, they are going to kill him.

Life sometimes—there are things that are introduced into our life sometimes that in itself is not so good. Does everybody get that?

(Stirring raw eggs in a bowl.) Would you like to have a bite? Do you know what we don't do? We don't like raw eggs.

Sometimes in life God introduces things into our life that we don't like. It doesn't mean that it is bad. There is not one thing wrong with this egg. Sometimes God introduces things in our life that we may not like and in itself, we may think it cannot work. We don't want this in our life. We don't want this to happen in our lives. Do you know what God did? God had a plan.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Everything that comes in my life and in your life; if I love the Lord Jesus Christ God has a plan for it. I'm not talking about the sin we may commit. I'm not talking about the things that we may go out here and do and we suffer the repercussions for that. However, when we are living in the will of God, when we love God, when we are called according to His purpose, then there are going to be things that is going to come in our life that we are not going to like in itself. That is exactly what happens to the Apostle Paul.

Listen. He goes down the road. He has to take off. He has to leave here Damascus. He has to get out of here because they are trying to kill him. God has allowed some things to come and some things has come in his life and now he has to **move on**.

The Bible says in Acts 16, he comes to a place called Derbe. He comes also to a place called Lystra. The Bible will tell us he meets Timothy there. Timothy comes into the ministry there. Timothy became a great blessing unto the Apostle Paul. But we can go on as we read on down through there in chapter 16, verse 4. He begins to preach there. He preaches that Jesus Christ is the Son of Almighty God. God is blessing him. God has His hand upon him. God is using him to bring people into the kingdom of God. Life was good.

If you read verse 5, in chapter 16; you will find out the church is established. Things are going well. They are growing in strength and in number. Things are just blossoming and things are going well.

Listen. There are times in life when everything goes well; in life there are times that we can't do anything wrong. There are times that every day we wake up it is a good day and every time we go to bed it is a good night. However, they are not all going to be like that. The Bible will tell us when we read on down through here that the Lord spoke to Paul in verse 9. He said, "Come on over into Macedonia." Paul had to leave this particular area. He is going to go over to a place that there is going to be something else introduced into his life.

When God calls and when God speaks, God has a plan. You had better make sure it is Him. You had better make sure it is God speaking because there are all kinds of voices that are speaking in this world today. I have never seen a time when people are being so misled and listening to the wrong voice as they are today. Everywhere. Every church. Every family. Every place we go people are listening to the wrong voice. There are all kinds of voices speaking.

The Bible says in verse 12, in chapter 16; he comes to a place called Philippi. Do you remember Philippi? It is a great place. Philippi was a great place when you look about it and when you read about it here. When you read about Philippi here, he comes there and we know that Lydia—things were going well. He goes down by a certain place and

he meets a lady by the name of Lydia. We know that he preaches the gospel. Everything is going just fine. Everybody is getting along just fine. Things were going well. However, it does not take long for the enemy to raise up his head. After their preaching and teaching and people getting saved and being born again; there was a little girl, if you remember the story. She was a lady that was possessed with the devil. Do you know what? You might say we should not talk like that.

Listen. He—the devil is real. Do you know what he will do? He will get you. Do you know what she is doing? She is following the Apostle Paul around. Do you know what happened? The Apostle Paul said this. After certain days, after a certain time, this lady continued following them around and said this is the Son of Almighty God. They are preaching about the Son of Almighty God. Paul gets upset. Do you know what he does? The Bible says that he cast the demon out of this little girl. Do you know what happens then? Then everybody gets upset. Those that were in the city, those that were there; when Paul casts the demon out of this little girl that had been following the around, do you know what happens? They get upset.

When you read the Bible do you know what you are going to find out here? It is not going to be long that they put Paul—they get him, when you read verse 20, they bring him to the magistrates here. Listen. There was trouble. They beat him. They beat some of them that were with him. Not only that but also, they are going to cast them into jail, simply because of his preaching. He cast the demon, the devil, an evil spirit out of a young girl that was following him around. Her life is a total wreck.

This little girl, the demons that were in this little girl; do you know what she knew about the Apostle Paul? Do you know what the demons were saying through her? She was proclaiming to everybody these guys that are preaching are telling us about the God of heaven and the great plan of salvation about the God of heaven. Do you know what Paul did not need? Paul did not need the devils to testify about who Jesus is.

Do you know what we don't need? We don't need people to curse, scream, lie and cheat and steal; talking about how good Jesus is. Amen! We don't need that. Do you know what it does? It makes everybody think that everybody is an idiot. But not everybody is an idiot. Amen!

Here is what happens. They put Paul and Silas in jail. Things were introduced in his life. Something else happens. More trouble.

Does everybody get that? Do you know what that is? That is pure vegetable oil. (Anybody want a shot?) I don't sit around and drink this. Do you? I like lemonade, Kool-Aid, coffee, but I don't sit around drinking vegetable juice. Do you know why? Because in itself it does not have much of a taste. We wouldn't sit around and drink it.

Paul is here. He preached. Cast demons out of this girl. She is saved. Lydia is saved. Things are going well and something else is introduced in his life.

(Stirring in more ingredients to the mixture he is stirring.) In itself this egg and this vegetable oil—we don't want it. Do we? We don't like it. It does not taste good. We don't sit around and drink vegetable oil. We don't sit around eating raw eggs. We don't like it.

In our lives, there are going to be things in our life that we are not going to necessarily like. However, if we are children of Almighty God, if we have been called, if we love the Lord God then do you know what He is doing? He is working out a plan. He has a plan. God is going to do something.

Here they are Philippi. They have been beaten. They have been cast into jail. Do you know what they begin to do? The Bible tells us that they begin to sing and they begin to pray.

Listen. When eggs and oil are introduced to our spirit, into our life; do you know what we need to do? We need to pray and we need to be singing.

That is exactly what they did. The Bible tells us that they begin to sing a midnight. They begin to pray. Do you know what happens when you begin to sing and pray? If you are called of Almighty God and if you love the God of heaven then He is going to answer.

These guys were in jail. They had no way to get out. They were in trouble. Aren't you glad that we have a God that we love and He loves us that when we get in jail and when we get beat up sometimes, all that we have to do is call upon His name. Do you know what He will do? He will rescue us. I don't have time to go through the whole story. But do you know what happens? We know that some things happen here. We know that Paul and Silas get out of jail. There is a guy here, a jailor that was here, we understand what he did. He began to realize and to recognize that when doors of the prison flew open, and he began to look. He thought all the prisoners had escaped. Do you know what he was going to do? He was going to kill himself.

Listen. There are people who cares about you. Your parents may not care anything about you. Your neighbor, your brother, your sister but there is One who sits on the right-hand side of God today; He cares about you and He cares about where you are at.

The Apostle Paul, when this guy was about to fall on his sword, Paul hollered at him and said, "Do yourself no harm because we are all here." The Bible said...he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Do you know what they did? He took them out of the prison. He brought them to his own house. They bound up his wounds. He gets saved. His family gets saved. They baptized him. God has a plan.

Even though the things that are introduced into our life, in themselves, may not necessarily be good; God has got a plan. Amen! You are called. You love Him. God has a got a plan. God has got a plan. You get that? He surely does.

Acts 14 something else is going to happen. He goes to a place called Lystra. He preaches there and teaches there. Some good things happened there. Do you know what happens when you read verse 5? They planned on killing him in Iconium. They planned on beating him to death. They planned on stoning him. He leaves Iconium, when you verse 5 and he gets to Lystra. He gets to Lystra in chapter 14, verse 19; do you know what happens here? The Bible tells us that they are going to stone him and leave him for dead.

(Another ingredient being added to the bowl.) Salt. Does anybody want a bite? I didn't think so.

Sometimes things are introduced in our lives that we don't sit around and eat. If we are going to eat and enjoy something it wouldn't be raw eggs. It would not be vegetable oil. It would not be salt. It would not be that. Remember, God's got a plan.

We are saved. We have been called. We love Him. God has got a plan. He is going to work out some things for good in our lives.

Paul is laying here now beaten to death. I think, when I read the scriptures; they stoned him until he died. He is laying beside the road. A guy that all he has been doing is doing good preaching, helping people, establishing churches, people have been delivered from sin, from witchcraft, from evil wickedness—now he is laying beside the road and they stoned him and if he is not dead, he is about dead. The disciples come along and here he is. He is laying there. When you read the book do you know what happens? In verse 20, God raises him up. He gets up off of the ground. They left him for dead. The people at Lystra, left him for dead. There were some things introduced into his life at Lystra that was not good but God had a plan.

God has a plan. We are called. If we love Him and love Him supremely; God has got a plan for your life. You, young people, middle-aged people, and especially senior citizens; God has a plan.

Luella how old did you tell me you were yesterday? (She replies, 87.) Isn't that great? Isn't that awesome? God has a plan. Do you know how I know that? She is still yet here. If God did not have a plan she would not be here. Amen! God has a plan.

You go on down here just a little bit. Paul preaches. Good things happen. People get saved. Churches are established. People are born into the family of God. They arrest him. They try him. Paul appeals to Caesar when you read Acts 27. Do you remember that story? Something else introduced to his life.

Butter in the mix. Baking soda in the mix.

He is here. He has appealed to Caesar. Caesar was top dog. Caesar was in Rome. Paul said you guys tried me. You beat me. Me being a Roman, I am going to appeal my case to Caesar. Do you know what happens? God has already told him—get this—God has already told him that He was going to bring him before Caesar. God had

already told him. Paul knew he was going to go to Rome. Paul did not know what was going to be introduced to his life on the way to Rome.

Do you know what I know today? I know I am on my way to heaven. Amen! If you are saved today you can say that. That is okay. If we are saved today then I know we are going to go to heaven. However, I don't know what is going to be introduced into life to get there. If we love Him, and we are called according to His purpose then things are going to work out for good to them that love God. Amen! It does not mean that everything is going to be good. You can look back to last month, two months to five months and so forth, of your life and you can say there were days that there were things introduced in my life that I did not like. Amen! Everybody can say amen on that one because it has been that way. There have been days and times when things have happened that has not been good and things have been introduced.

Paul says, "I want to go to Rome." He gets on a ship. They go down the sea for a way. They are sailing. It is getting close to wintertime. They find a ship that has come from Alexandria, Egypt. They put Paul on the ship. He starts sailing towards Rome. They sail for a while and they come to a little place called the Fair Havens, when you read Acts 27. It was a little place. There wasn't much to it. It wasn't a very good place for all the crew and everybody to winter in because there wasn't that many night clubs and bars and places for people to loaf. They are talking about sailing on and going for a way. Paul said, "Guys, I need to tell you something. You guys, we had better stay here. You had better let things alone. You had better stay here. If you don't there is going to be trouble."

Do you know what they did? The owner, the soldiers, and the captain of the ship; do you know what they did? They believed the world. They believed the crowd more than they believed the words of the Apostle Paul. Do you know what happens?

Get this. A very important part of the story. They start sailing. They are not long. We know that there are 200—get this—it is a pretty good-sized ship because there are 276 people on this ship. We know that because of the story. They are sailing along here then suddenly out of nowhere there was a storm that rose. When you read the story in verse 14, of chapter 27; there was a storm that came up. It was a storm like they had never seen before.

In your life and in my life, there will be storms. There will be storms. There will be things that will come that we have never faced before. There will be things that will happen in our life that we have never had to deal with before.

Flour. Does anybody want a bite?

They are going along. The wind catches the boat. The storm is called Euraquilo. (*Note: not sure if this is the correct term or spelling associated with what Bob was saying here.*) It is probably some kind of a hurricane or a typhoon but it was something they had never experienced before. When you read the story, do you know what you will find out? The boat in

verse 15 was caught up in the wind. Do you know what they do? The Bible says, "We let her drive." I did not make that up. That is in the book. Do you know what that means? They were out of control. The boat was out of control. They could not control what was going on. The storm was raging. The rain was pouring. The wind was blowing. They are out of control. They cannot control it. They cannot control and they let her drive.

Sometimes, in life, things get that way. Sometimes in life, things happen a lot of times in life that we cannot control. Amen!

Do you think you have control of your life? Do you really think you do? If you think you do, you are dead wrong because you don't have.

Do you know what happens? When you read the Bible, Paul makes the statement, "The storm is coming. The storm is there. The storm is blowing." After a day or two, they throw the tackling of the ship overboard trying to lighten up because they all think they are going to drown. They are all going to die. The Bible says that for many days neither the sun nor the stars were seen. Do you remember reading that? That is in the book.

A storm goes on and on and on... We think sometimes, there is no end to it. Do you know what? If we are the called, if we love God, there are going to be good things that are going to come out of it. Do you remember reading that? Do you remember reading what happens?

Paul here gets them together and talks about some things. They are getting ready to abandon ship, some of them are. They are getting ready to take the life boats on the side, some of them are; not the prisoners but those on the ship. They are getting ready to abandon ship. Paul sees what is happening. He makes this statement. Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. That is also in the Bible. Amen! Except ye abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

Do you know what we are tempted to do sometimes when the storms of life are blowing? When they are blowing hard and when we have not seen the sun or the stars in many days. We go up and we go down. We don't know where we are going. The wind is just carrying us this way and that way. We don't know what is happening. Do you know what we are inclined to do? Lord, where are you at? If you really love me, Lord, I wouldn't be in this mess. If you really loved me Lord, you would come and rescue me. We think that way sometimes. Do you know what he does? Paul gets...and says, "Hey, I've news. I'm going to tell you something. First of all, I want you to eat something."

When you read the story, these guys had not eaten for 14 days. I have trouble going 14 hours. Sometimes 14 minutes. However, these guys had not eaten in 14 days. Probably they were scared to death. However, with the boat going up and down, up and down; they probably didn't want to eat.

Paul said, "You need to eat something because this is for your health. I've got good news for you. There has stood by me this night the angel of God and told me that all 276 of you guys are going to be just fine. The ship is going to be broken up. It is going to be destroyed, torn up. However, you 276 people are going to be just fine."

Isn't that great to know? Isn't it great to know that in the darkest times of life, times that we don't know where the storm is taking us to, we don't know where we are going to land at (and they landed in a place that they did not know where they were at for a while). Paul gets snake bit. In the darkest times of life, isn't it great to know that God is in control? Isn't it great to know that He knows what is going on? If you have never had any dark times in your life there are some coming. I know most everybody sitting here has had dark times in their life.

Here is what happens. We know that they are saved. There are 276 people in this boat is saved. All 276 of them. All is fine. The 276 people are fine. The boat is torn up. However, everyone is fine. Paul is in this storm. He is there. He is going up and down. He is getting beat.

Do you ever feel like you have beaten? Do you ever feel like the storms in life is so great that you don't know what to do? Have you ever felt like the storms in life were just beating you from here to there? Did you ever feel that way? It happens. Doesn't it? God allows things in our life, if we love Him, if we are called according to His purpose; God is working out something good for us, and something good for other people. Amen!

If Paul hadn't been on the boat, these other 276 people would have died. I think that is a pretty good thing. Don't you? Even though he was uncomfortable at the beginning, he did not know how things were going to end. He did not know what was going to happen. But he remained faithful. As the boat was going up and down, the wind still yet blowing, flopping around; God speaks. God speaks... Not only does God whip us around sometimes...

I was going to bring a mixer in here but I was afraid I would sling it everywhere so I did not want to do that.

Sometimes God stirs us and mixes things and all kinds of different stuff in our life. He takes different ingredients.

I have an egg in here. Nobody wanted a bite of this raw egg. I put the baking soda in here. Nobody wanted any of that. I put flour in here. Nobody wanted any of that. Did you? I put salt and some other things. Nobody wanted a bite of that. Amen!

It is amazing what God does. It is amazing what God can do. In life, do you know what God has to do sometimes? God is going to turn up the heat. Amen! I've got a real nice stove in here... I put it on 350 degrees. Amen! We are going to back a while.

Four young men lived in Jerusalem. I was thinking about this yesterday. How many of you guys played Pac-man? These guys may have been playing Pac-man; I don't know. We have different stuff now. These young men, when you read about them; they were good kids. They were intelligent kids. They were kids that had a great reverence and we know they did for the God of heaven. They were home one day, different places, and some soldiers came knocking saying, "Hey, you have to come with me." We know that they took these young men and some others hundreds and hundreds of miles away to a place called Babylon. A place that they did not know their language. They had never been there.

Here they are. The first thing they want to do with these guys is that they want to change their diet. They wanted to give them something to eat. They wanted to give them a portion of the king's meat. They wanted to give them the wine that the king drank so that they could teach them to be Chaldeans. They could teach them to work in the government of the Babylonians. They knew they were smart. They were intelligent kids. They had a lot going for them. Daniel was there and said, "Hey, guys I'm not going to eat your meat. It has been sacrificed to idols. I'm not going to drink your wine. I don't do that. I am not going to defile myself before Almighty God. I'm not going to do that." We know the story. We know that they ate beans and drank water. Amen!

The next thing they did; they changed their names. We know them as Shadrack, Meshack, Abednego and Daniel, but we are not too familiar with their names Belteshazzar, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They changed their names. They gave them high positions.

The king had a dream and nobody could interpret the dream. Daniel interprets the dream and they get blessed. They are given positions. It wasn't too long the king goes out and builds a great big statue out in the middle of nowhere. He says I'm going to command everybody that when they hear music...you are going to fall down and worship this big image that I built. If you don't do that we are going to throw you into the furnace. We are going to throw you into the fire.

Sometimes in life it takes fire to bring out the very best in us. Even though this stuff that God mixes in our life; the eggs, flour, salt, baking soda and all the things that God brings and allows in our life sometimes—to bring all of that where it needs to come to and to bring all of that to where it is good not only for me but for everybody it has to go through the heat. It has to go through the fire.

They played the music. I don't know where Daniel was at on this particular day, but Daniel was not there. The three boys, when they heard the music, they did not bow down. Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego again that is their Babylonian names or Chaldean names. They did not bow down. Therefore, some of their so-called friends—not everybody that says they are your friend is your friend—they go and run and tell the king. You exalted these guys and they are children of the captivity and they have some great positions here but they are not bowing down when they play the music. The king

gets all upset and calls them in. He said, "Did you guys do this?" They said, "Yes we did." We are going to give you another chance. We are going to play the music again, if you fall down and bow and worship my image then everything is cool. Do you know what the boys said? "King, we are not careful to answer you." What that means is that hey, you don't need to play anymore music. We are not going to fall down and worship your image. The God that we serve, if He delivers that is fine, but if He does not deliver us we are still yet not worshiping your image. Amen!

Sometimes, you have to take a stand. When you take a stand, you may have to go through the fire but the fire is not going to hurt you. Amen!

The king goes into a rage when they say that. They fire up the furnace. They get some real tough guys. "Take these three guys and throw them into the fire." Right in the midst of a furnace that is blazing. The Bible says in the midst. I don't know much about a furnace. Some of these guys here can teach us some things about furnaces. If my understanding is right; probably the middle of the furnace is one of the hottest in a furnace. They throw these guys into the midst of the furnace. Here they are. They have their coats on. They have all their clothes on and whatever they have on.

Something miraculous happened. Herman especially, could tell us that if someone fell into the furnace that they worked around for years; they would be gone that quick. They would be gone in a split second. There would be nothing left of them. They would be gone.

Then Nebuchadnezzar comes over. He looks into a hole that was there. He is astonished. The fire is blazing. He knows it is hot. It was so hot that the guys that threw them in there died from it. He walks over and looks in and says, "Did not we throw three men into the furnace?" They said, "Yes, we sure did." He says, "We had them tied up. Now these three guys are loose and now they are walking around in here. I see someone else. The fourth is liken unto the Son of God." Amen!

First of all, they are loosed walking around in there. We think sometimes that the things that are introduced into our life is issues. It does cause issues. It is not always good. We do not always like it. Here these guys are in the middle of the furnace. Do you know what he does? He calls them out. They walk out of this furnace. They get over to where the king is at. He looks at them. The Bible testifies that not one hair on their head was singed. Their clothes, the fire did not touch them. Get that. They did not even smell like smoke. Yet they had been walking in a furnace; a furnace hot enough to melt ore. Several hundred degrees, probably over 2,000 degrees this thing was burning.

Do you know what made the difference? They were called. They were chosen. They loved the God of heaven. When the fire came and the heat came; it brought out the best in them. Do you know why? Because they trusted the God of heaven.

When you and I go through trials, troubles and testing, we will either do one of two things. We will come out on the other side and be a whole lot better off. Or we will make a mess out of everything. It all depends on whether we will trust God or not.

Do you know what happens? When the king sees—get this—all things work together for good to them that love God and are the called according to His purpose. Not everything that comes is good, but when you add it all together—when you put it all together in my life, when we will simply be faithful to God, it all works out for good.

Nebuchadnezzar comes and says, “Hey, there is no God like the God of these boys. He is God.” He made a proclamation everywhere. They were to worship Him. Do you think that would have been a big deal on that day? Do you know why that happened? That happened because these three guys decided on this particular day that the thing was entered into their life wasn’t good but they purposed they were not going to cave in. Do you know what happened? Some great things came out of that.

Listen. Great things will come out of your life when you trust the God of heaven. If you love Him, if you are called according to His purpose; it doesn’t matter whether it is eggs, salt, baking soda, vegetable oil, or flour whatever comes in life, in itself—we don’t sit around and eat those things. We don’t like them. However, something miraculous takes place when God puts us in the heat. When we go through the fire, something miraculous happens.

That is a pretty good oven. Don’t you think? You see what I put in that cup is what is here. That is all that is here. There is no magic here. What I put in that cup and mixed up is here. (in a cake completely done.) I probably say if I would go down the aisle now and ask if he would like to have some of this then he would change his mind. Amen! I would go to everyone of you, would you like to have some of this now? Do you know why? It is the same stuff. It is the same eggs that were raw. The salt. The butter. The oil. The baking soda. Do you know what makes the difference? Mixing it all up and putting it through the fire. That is what makes the difference in life.

Listen. God has a plan for your life. If you will trust Him, God has a plan for your life.

Come and pray—