

• • TRANSCRIPT

• October 18th, 2026 "*The Power Of Daily Surrender*"

• Guest Speaker: Pastor Larry Swartz

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Good morning, folks. I'm glad to see everybody always.

I'm so thankful when Brother Baron says, can you come up and preach? I'm like, yes, I can. I don't know if I can, but I would love to. God is good.

God's been good to you all. Amen. He's been very good to us.

In our church, our pastor has been really kind of doubling down on intentionality, living the Christian life with intention. And he's written a book called *Be Intentional*, and you can get it on Amazon. It's a small book, but it's very powerful about intentionally incorporating Christian disciplines into your life, spending time with God, praying, reading the scripture, having community, being more than just a Sunday morning believer, but really locking in and doing the things that God would have us to do.

And it's just been a great, great joy to read that book. And then he's doing it in one of the discipleship classes. And we've just been enjoying being a part of it.

He's written a few books, but this one is, I recommend it, it's cheap. It's only \$10 on Amazon. And he's funny, he goes, people think I make a lot of money from writing books.

He's written three. This is his third one. He's working on another one.

He says, but he goes, Jeff Bezos gets \$7 and I get three. He says, that's the reality when you deal with Amazon, when you put your books up there. And he said, if you buy a book, it's gonna help my kid go to college.

So, anyways. Romans, so I'm gonna talk about that whole concept. He's been preaching about it for weeks.

He's written a book about it. We have discipleship classes about being intentional. And it's just, it's something that's really lacking in the church today.

There's a lot of cultural Christians, if you will, Christians by name only and not, and I'm not talking about you in particular, but in the church is in the West. And the church is in the United States because we're so comfortable here. We're not under persecution.

We're not suffering hard for our faith. And so, therefore, we're not hard at the faith, if you get my drift. We're not being pressed into following hard.

And if you read through the New Testament and especially in the book of Acts, you'll find that the church was under severe persecution all the time. And they met by necessity. They met daily by necessity because they were always being persecuted.

They were always being pushed around by the governmental authorities in Rome and the Pharisees and different things. And so, we live in a day where there's so many, many, many, many distractions, so many things that keep you from being intentionally practicing God's presence, spending time with him, spending more than a couple of minutes in the morning with him, spending time during the day, spending time in the middle of the day, at night before you go to bed. I mean, we're just in a place where we're so overloaded with distraction.

And it's just, it's very difficult to navigate through. So, you have to be intentional. You have to focus.

You have to really mark down that I am going to follow the way he wants me to follow. And Jesus wants us to follow hard after him because what he's done, amen? He's done a great, great, great work. And we received that free gift of salvation.

We didn't have anything to do with it. We can't keep it. We had nothing to do with it.

It's free. We receive it, but he wants us to live now for him. He doesn't want you to die for him.

That could be the case. More often, the truth is, he just wants you to lay down your life and live for him. He wants us to live for him.

So, Romans 12, one, I'm gonna read one passage. Then we'll look at Philippians chapter two, just two verses there, and we'll see what we can do about listening to the apostle Paul about being intentional. Romans 12, one, I beseech you.

Okay, yes. If you'd like. Very good.

I'm sorry, I'm not used to it. We should. You do, very good.

I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And we'll read verse two after a while, but let's look at Philippians chapter two, and we'll read that passage, and then we'll just kind of ask God to help us. I'll pray and ask the Lord to help us as we speak about the power of daily surrender and being intentional in our walk with the Lord Jesus.

Philippians chapter two, great chapter of Jesus being intentional follower of God, the Father, amen. He thought it not robbery to be equal with him. He gave his life over, he died for us.

Wherefore, he's been lifted, highly exalted, and given a name above every name, right? You know, that beautiful passage in Philippians two. And I'm gonna go to verse 12, where it says, wherefore, my beloved brethren, as you have also obeyed not in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. So Paul is telling him to work out what God's worked in.

You can't work for it, you can't work to keep it, but work out what God's done for you. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in you. Find your place in God's economy, find your mission, whether it's local, whether

it's at your job place, whatever it is, and do those things and be intentional about doing it.

Work out your own salvation with fear. That means reverence and trembling because God's a holy God and he's answerable too. And we'll stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ one day.

And that won't be whether you go to heaven or hell, that was taken care of at the cross. But because that's our case, that doesn't mean we should fluff off and hang out and drift. No, we're to be fully engaged in Christ and in the work that he has.

He says in 13, for it's God that works in you, both to do and to will of his good pleasure. So God works in us. In Paul, again in 12, one, he says, what's acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

And so let's pray and then you can be seated. Father, we're grateful for your goodness. I ask that you'd bless our time in the word today.

We have the words of Paul, a great, great illustration of a man who was thoroughly intentional of his worship. And so we thank you. And I ask that you bless our time, bless each one for their coming and their attention in Jesus name, amen.

So we have an invitation from God to constantly follow him. Many times in the scripture, in the New Testament, you can see Jesus calling people unto himself. You can see when he first went out and he was calling Andrew and Peter and all of the men.

And he had this call. The call was to lay down your life and to follow me. Stop what you're doing and come along and follow me.

That sounds like a hard call, but when you understand, as Paul says here, according to the mercy of God, he's not asking you to die on a cross for him. He did that for you, amen. He's not asking you to die on a cross.

He's asking you to live for him. And he will empower you as we just read there in Philippians chapter two and verse 13. It's God that works in us to do his will and his good pleasure.

So it's not, Paul doesn't challenge believers to do something that they cannot do. God never asks you to do something you can't do. If he asked you to do something, if there's a challenge in the scriptures, God will find a way to enable you to do it.

And that way is the Holy Spirit. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. If indeed we're saved, if indeed we are born again, because there's only one Christian and it's a born again Christian.

Anybody? Thank you. There's no nominal, look, the world is full of nominal Christians, of cultural Christians. People who don't go to church act like Christians.

Many people do. Many people are highly moral. Many people are very good.

Many people follow the 10 commandments, if you will, by their heart or the way they live their lives. But God is not asking us to follow a lore or a ritual or a tradition. He's asking us to follow him.

And what does it mean to follow him? Well, Paul gives us this reasoning right here. First of all, it says,

I beseech you because of the mercies of God that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice. The mercy of God, look, God loves you.

God gave himself for you. And he's not finished. He is in his high priestly ministry right now interceding on our behalf.

He sits at the right hand of the father, the Bible tells us, ever interceding for us. So Jesus Christ is actively working for you. Paul says, actively work in your Christian experience.

Be active, be intentional. Every day, he says, I beseech you therefore by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice. Do that daily, every day when you get up.

And ever since we've been camping on this for a couple of weeks at the church, it's been one of my prayers. Lord, I'm dedicating my body to you this morning as a living sacrifice. I want you to try me, search me, see if there's any wicked way in me, and then lead me in the right way.

Lead me in the way of everlasting. And just God wants us to devote our bodies to him because the body doesn't belong to you, it belongs to him. We, as I like to say, we are God's twice.

We're his by creation, right? We're his by redemption, right? He owns you twice, you get it? He created you one time, he redeemed you. Number two, you're born into the family, he owns you. So therefore, what is, we're reminded, and Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 6 or 7, he says, whatever you do, whether you eat or drink, do it all to the glory of God.

And that's what's lacking. What's lacking, the greatest problem in the church today is not what's going on in the world. It's not the transgender garbage, it's not the work, that's not the problem with the church.

The problem with the church is we're not intentional enough to make an impact on that. Thank you. Let's just be honest.

And I have to get before God myself, just because I pastored and I preach, don't think that I'm on a pedestal. No, I have to throw down many times and say, God, forgive me, because I'm failing big time. There's a big mission here and I am way off, way off base.

And we just have to be honest with God because he knows who you are. So just be honest, come before him, present your body as a living sacrifice, because of the mercy of God. He's merciful, he's long-suffering, amen? He's long-suffering, he loves us, and he will never, ever leave you, forsake you, he'll never give up.

But there's a problem with not being intentional. What happens is you will drift away. In Hebrews, let's look at Hebrews chapter, boy, where is it? Two, one.

And sometimes I write them out, sometimes I don't. Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don't. Sometimes I write them out, sometimes I like to embarrass myself and flip through the pages up here.

Hebrews chapter two, and we should be ready to turn in our books anyways. You should know where the book of Hebrews is, am I right? Yeah, you should be reading it. Look, this is what David esteemed

more than his physical food.

David was a man of like passions. Don't think he was some kind of giant. The only thing giant about him was his God, okay? He had faith in a big, big God, and God showed up big time for David.

But David sinned, David committed adultery, David murdered. But he understood the value of the word of God. He understood he needed to read it.

He needed to be in it intentionally always. Hebrews chapter two and chapter, let's see, I have it written down. Chapter two, one, yes.

Therefore, we ought to give the most earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. Some translations say, unless we drift away. There's a problem of drifting away.

In the beginning of your salvation, if you can recall, and if you can't, just get saved. Amen? Because this is not something that's just a casual, oh yeah, I prayed one day and therefore, no, no, no, no, no. If you have an interaction with God and you finally meet God, you know it.

And you won't forget it. And you know where you were when it happened. Amen? You will know where you were because, well, how do I know I'm saved? Because I was there when it happened.

I will never forget. And you don't have to have a massive experience, but you will never forget. I will never forget the day that I jumped on the floor, begged God to forgive me and save me.

I'll never forget it. I know where I was. I can picture the room.

I remember what was going on in my lifetime. And I remember what happened. He indeed came right in.

He heard my prayer. He came in and he saved me. And I'm ever grateful for him.

But we have a tendency to drift and we need to be called back and we need to be intentional. Therefore, we would not drift. And so, Paul here again, and he writes in Romans that he's saying, you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable for God.

That's what God wants. Now, the problem with drifting is you can drift so far that you won't be recognizable as a Christian or to Jesus. Yeah, you can drift way out and you can come to church drifting.

Just because you show up here on Sundays, you check a box, that doesn't mean anything. It doesn't mean anything. Jesus cast off on the religious crowd because they were holding to their religious works and he said, that's not gonna cut it.

That is not what we're looking for here. We're not looking for religiosity. We're looking for a personal relationship.

If you come, if you love me, you will come. If you're coming because you should come, don't come. Get right with God and then come.

Amen? Yeah, don't come because you should. No, come because you love Jesus and because it's the right thing to do. We're not supposed to forsake the assembling of ourselves.

That's not a law because this next verse says that we'd encourage each other daily until we see the day of Jesus approaching. So we want to make sure we're running with God and fully intentional about it. The problem with backsliding and they call it backsliding is many people never slid forward first.

You get it? They never came and they deem them backsliders. Well, you know, it's not backsliding and here's the great problem of backsliding and it's a sad commentary in John chapter six. It says, from that time, many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him.

They saw him feed, they saw him do miracles, they saw him do all kinds of things. There's even a group that he speaks to and they come to him and said, Lord, haven't we done many wonderful works in your name and cast out demons and did works and did all of these things and what did he tell them? Depart from me, I never knew you. Yeah, know Jesus, amen? Know him, know him on a personal level and he'll know you.

My sheep hear my voice and they follow me, I know them. He knows who are his, you can't fake the funk with Jesus. That's what my pastor always says.

You just can't fake the funk because he's not going to be fooled. He's not gonna be fooled and we need to be intentional. The problem is if we're not intentional, we won't be walking with him.

Oh, you can look like you're walking with him. You can talk like you're walking with him. You can fool most of the people most of the time but you'll never fool God one time.

And I don't know why you'd wanna go through this Christian experience, just living like trying to fool everybody and letting everyone think you're good. We're not good, there's one that's good, his name is Jesus. But we wanna get hard after him.

We wanna follow him as best as we can and that's what he's looking for. He's looking for ardent followers. He's looking for people that'll get with the program and get with him, not Sunday morning only.

And not, okay, well, I go Tuesday night and Thursday, well, good for you. Do you bring him with you? How about at home on Wednesday and Monday and Friday? Is he there with you? That's what intentional Christianity is all about. You wake up in the morning and you're intentionally, okay, I'm gonna practice the presence of God.

He's here anyhow. You might as well practice his presence. He's everywhere at all times but it's wonderful to wake up and get with him, spend some time, spend a half an hour and people say, well, I have to get up, I have to work, you don't know.

Well, he knows. And my pastor, Pastor Jim Welch that we had when we were in the Bible school, Barron went up there too to New England Baptist. He used to say this about that.

He said, schedule some inconveniences in your life. It's inconvenient to get up early. You gotta leave the house at six, well, get up at five for God's sake.

Give yourself at least a half an hour. Amen? At least. Do you eat? Do you drink coffee? And if you neglect this, you're gonna be spiritually starved for the day.

You'll be hungering inside. You may not realize it but you're gonna be spiritually starved. And the thing is we wanna be, as Paul points out here, holy and acceptable.

It's our reasonable service. It's only reasonable to devote your whole life to him. And some people think, oh, that's gonna be a hard life.

It's the best life on earth. It's the best life on earth. Come unto me all you that labor in a heavy laden and I'll give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn of me. How would you like to walk through this life? And my pastor was so cute. He was like, okay, knucklehead, you come with me now.

On Monday, pastor, he said, I didn't do nothing but get with Jesus. And he says, he puts his yoke on me and he says, okay, now you come to follow me today. And he says, he was playing this thing out but that's what he's offering.

He's offering for you to get with him and he wants to carry you through the day. He wants to carry you through every day. He wants you to put his yoke upon him.

And you know the story, you know all about it. They yoke two together. One would be more, let's say not educated, but more mature and the other would follow.

If the mature one would kneel down, the other one would follow. But if you put two people who wasn't mature, you'd ruin the field. It'd just be a mess after a while.

But Jesus says, hook up with me. So look, every day hook up with God because you need him. And if you don't know you need him, you're in bad shape already.

Preach it. Somebody, tell me. Tell me the truth.

Yeah, if you don't know you need him, you're in tough shape. You're in real tough shape because that means you think you're okay on your own. We ain't okay on our own.

We are desperate without Jesus. For without me you can do, John 15. Abiding is what that whole thing's about.

He wants us to abide in him. That's what it means to sacrifice your life every day and give over to him. He wants you to abide in him because he has a great, great work for the church and individually for each one of us.

He wants us to take part in this greatest thing on earth.

The Christian church is the greatest organization, living organism on earth.

It's better than any club.

It's better than any other group.

It's better than any statehood or whatever.

The church is where it's at because Jesus died for the church.

And the church is what he's using right now to bring the good news to the whole world.

And he wants us to be intentional about our Christianity.
I mentioned before we have a lot of distractions in this life.

Well, then get rid of them, move them away from you, move the distractions aside.
You say, My phone's always ringing, put the stupid thing, there's an off button on it, turn it off.
Oh, no, turn it off, and don't make excuses.
Oh, I'm gonna get a call.
Of course, you're damn right you're gonna get a call.
You're always going to get a call.
When you don't want it.
And as soon as you try to do something, for the Lord, that phone's gonna ring, you're gonna be distracted, something's gonna happen and you're gonna be caught off guard.

We're in bad shape today with that thing.
Am I right?
We're in bad shape with that thing.
It's like another body part.
Some people are really losing their grip if they haven't got it.
I was in this place The other day, it was a lunch room, and these guys that were workers on this community where we were, there was five guys sitting at a lunch table and everyone had his phone in his hand and they weren't even conversing with one another.
Five people at lunchtime.
We're in bad shape.
Distracted, so distracted that you can't even get with your co-worker.
Yeah, we're distracted, all right.
And it's a problem, but you have to fight the good fight of faith.
You have to soldier up in God's army.
You have to understand that there's a battle raging for your soul and for the souls of men and we have to work hard at it.
You know, like I mentioned, you don't work to keep yourself saved, but the devil would like to put you on the sideline of the football game.

He'd like to put sideline you so that you have no value any longer.
And he can do that with the distractions and we are highly distracted in this day.
And I mentioned it before, but it's the truth.
There has not been a revival in the United States since the advent of television.

There are pockets of revival happening now because people have been distressed, people are tired.
COVID came and it beat people down.
The COVID-19 didn't beat them, the government authorities beat them.
They locked them up, they locked them down.

It was a brutal experiment that many people fell under.
Many, many people fell under, and even the churches, many churches shut down because they were just going to follow the state instead of God.

Our pastor sued the state and won.

How's that?

And he offered all churches.

If you are not able and you don't wanna open up, you can come and use our social media and you can put your message out every week.

Yeah, they sued the state.

They weren't, no, they weren't gonna close down.

I'm not bragging, but I'm saying that's the muster we need.

We need to get in this thing and don't let the state tell you what you can do with your faith because we're answerable to God.

Amen?

And if the state tells you, you shouldn't worship on Sunday because there's a pandemic.

You say, oh no, we're worshipping on Sunday because there's a pandemic.

Amen.

That's the reason why we're coming because we want to fight against these things and we have the answer.

His name is Jesus.

He won a victory over all of those things.

He's the healer, He's the redeemer.

He's the one that's won a victory over all of those things in this life.

And so there's a lack of spiritual discipline in the churches today.

And we need to understand that.

And if God speaks to you at all today, I hope you get something and you say, I'm going to become intentional because God wants me and he's worth it.

And he died for me and he gave himself for me and he loves me and he'll never stop loving me.

Why don't I love him enough to show him that he's mine and that I'm going to give my life to him?

And I'm telling you, give your life to Jesus is the best life you can ever have.

It's not hard.

It's harder if you're a true believer and you drift away.

That's where it becomes hard.

Because now there's shame and there's guilt and there's all of these things that you're constantly battling with.

But you can come back to Jesus always, very easily, and confess and be honest.

When it says in 1 John, "Confess your sins," that means agree with God that you're a sinner.

Agree with God and name the points.

Don't just say, "Oh Lord, be merciful unto me, a sinner like the man."

No, "Lord, forgive me for this."

I've been slothful in business.

I haven't been doing what I should do.

Name them.

He wants to hear them and he's honored by that and he will come in and redeem and forgive and call you back into the service and you'll be freed.

You wanna be free.
You don't wanna be a servant to anything.
Part of the problem here with not being intentional is you're gonna be a servant to one or the other.

You can't serve two masters.
You'll either leave one or cleave to the other.

You can't serve God and money.
Mammon in the old King James version.
And so Paul talked about that.

And many times in his letters, he talked about the fact that we don't have to sin any longer because Jesus won a victory over that sin and he gives you the power to overcome it through the new birth.
Amen.

He gives you the power.
Paul says in Romans 6, we're not under the Dominion of sin any longer.
We're not under it.
So don't yield yourself.
He says, You are servants of whoever you yield yourself to, whether to sin unto death or to Christ unto life and righteousness.
It's a matter of yielding.
What does it mean to yield?
It means to give yourself.
So what is Paul saying?
Give yourself to God every day, give your body as a living sacrifice.
Keep giving it to him.
It's not redundant.

It's profitable.
It's helpful.
It's very good for us to do that.
And by the way, the body, he's really means the body, the physical body.
We're tempted by all kinds of things.
We have lust.

We have all kinds of things.
You know what lust means?
I want it now.
Not just sexual, yes, sexual, but all kinds of other things.
And I want it now and I'm getting it.
And if you yield over to that type of thing it'll master you.
It'll be your master.
And before we got saved, many of us could say, there was no way on earth I was breaking that chain.
There was no way.
I had no power.
I couldn't break it.

I couldn't stop doing those things.
But thank God for Jesus Christ.

Remember Paul in Romans 7 the things that I do, I wish I wouldn't.
The things that I want to do, I don't find myself doing.
But then he says, I found a principle.

Thank God through Jesus Christ my Lord.

And he's the answer.

Bring all of those sins to the cross constantly.
Visit the cross daily.
Our pastor says, preach the gospel to yourself every morning.
Remind yourself, remind yourself.
You have communion here usually on the first Sunday.
He said, do this in remembrance of me.
You know why he did it?
Because they might forget.
Isn't that a shame?
And the way not to forget is to practice daily.
Practice daily.
Be intentional about reading the word.
Be intentional about speaking to God and praying.
Be intentional about community, being with other believers.
Be intentional about whatever mission he's given you.

And be intentional about prayer, scripture reading, community worship.
And by the way, Romans 12:1.
Worship.
And by the way, Romans 12:1, where it says it's your reasonable service, some translation says this is true worship.
So worship God is not just singing songs, it's presenting your life to Him.
That's true worship.
That's what it means by reasonable service.
Several other translations say this is your true spiritual worship.
And so that's what God is looking for in our lives.
We are heavily distracted, as I mentioned, and it's a big, big problem in our lives and in the church, too.

But the problem is that you can overcome the distractions if you're intentionally following.
You can say, I see you.
Now I'm playing with you.
I see what's happening here.

I know what's going on.
Hey, do we like the Patriots?
Anyone?
Okay.
Oh, you probably have some.
Cowboys fans here, or maybe some Steelers fans.

And I confess this to the church last week, when I was doing a discipleship on Wednesday morning.
We're talking about being intentional Sunday morning, I'll just give you how the lowdown how it goes,
Peggy and I go to the nine o'clock, but I have to be there at 815.
Because I get with a group of guys and a part of the usher crew, we have 35 ushers.
And so we Wait, what?
Crew.
We have 35 ushers.
And so we do shifts.

At any rate, if I'm going to usher that day, I have to sit for a service and serve for a service.
If I just want to come up and serve, no, you have to sit for one.
It's a good rule, but it's easy, and I love it.
So Peggy and I go 9 o'clock.
I serve at 11.
And then we're there until like when the cows come in.

So now the second service, Patsy can go on and on because she's not constrained to start a new service at 11.
If you started at nine, you get it?
Started a new service at 11.
If he started at 9, you get it?
So sometimes he'll go to 12 30, quarter, whatever, and we're there.
And so maybe I spend four hours or five hours, but it's God's business.

It's all good.
I love it because I'm there with my brothers and sisters.
I'm having a great time.
I'm learning.
I'm having fellowship.
I'd rather be there than anywhere else.
And then we go home.
I go home and I'm putting on the Patriots and we watch the Patriots.
And there's a three hour.
And then the next game comes on, and I can't.
And then the next game comes on and I catch myself like a little bit through the next game and I'm like, dude, what in the world?
I was getting so convicted.
I didn't tell Peggy 'cause she was doing it with me. We're there together watching the game. And I'm

like, dude, six hours of football? Six hours? Oh God help you, there's an eight o'clock game. We're talking nine hours football now. People who are really into it. And a lot of us are into it. But look, Paul said.

All things are lawful to me. But not all things are expedient. I would venture to say that watching a couple hour game is lawful. I think if you watch six hours, I think now you're verging on it's not expedient. I think if you're watching nine hours, now you got some big problems because that was nine hours where you didn't consider Jesus. And he's sitting there saying.

I'm still here, I'm still here. I want to have fellowship with you, I want you to come and talk to me. We got a lot of things to discuss today, I want your attention, and we have to become intentional. Amen. So, if you find yourself distracted in this life, be careful. Distractions, although they can be lawful, they're not always helpful. Paul said.

It's not all things are lawful to me. But not everything is expedient. In other words, it's not profitable for his Christian growth. I'm going to finish with this, and I could and I have gone on forever and ever.

But I'm not going to do that to you today. I think you get the idea. Let's be intentional. I'm going to cut it quick with you. Let's stop playing church because Jesus is not fooled. He is not fooled by our whatever we're doing, our service.

However minor or major. I'm not saying I don't know anybody's home line. I don't know what y'all are doing. I'm free when I come here to preach. I'm free because I don't know anybody. And that's freeing to me. In Dartmouth Baptist, I pastored. For 16 years. I never looked at the offering. Oh. I looked at the end result.

But I never looked at the offering because I didn't want to get on Ralph's case because he didn't tithe that week. I could freely preach about tithing. And someone would say, oh, he knows the record. No.

And I told him. I don't know the record. I don't know who's in or who's out. That was safe for me. You get it? And so we want to be free. I have to be free to be able to preach what God puts on my heart.

And we have a big problem of being unintentional in this day. We need Christian Discipline. We need to be disciplined in our Bible reading in our Bible study, in our prayer time. We need to be disciplined Christians because the world is very disciplined in the things that it does. And it's very powerful and it can easily lead you astray. And if you're led astray, you know.

God help you. You know that John 6 address that I read? You know what? Verse it is? 666. Oh. Lord have mercy. How about that number? Now we know when it was written. They didn't number that. It came later, but whoever put that there was really doing pretty well, I think. That was a pretty good.

Smart move. 666. They stopped walking with him. Many of the disciples left and followed him no more. They'd seen all he had done. Okay, I'm gonna finish. Romans 6:16 is where I wanna read and then I have just a devotion. Didn't anyone ever or do you have Oswald Chambers? Yeah, what's the name of it? It's called My Utmost for His Highest. It's a great.

Great devotional. It's been around a long time. It's one that I, I read daily with a couple others. Anyways. 6:16 says this Know ye not that whom you yield yourselves servants to, you obey? I mentioned this. His servants you are to whom you obey.

Whether sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness. We need to be obedient in Christian discipline. We need to be obedient to do the things that God wants us to do. Otherwise, we will be under the dominion, the servitude. The headship of something else. You, Can't get away from it. You're

either going to run with him or you're going to slide back from him and away. Okay.

So here's what he says. "His servants ye are whom ye obey. The first thing to do in examining the power that dominates me is to take hold of the unwelcome fact that I am responsible for being thus dominated. If I'm a slave Thank you very much. Thus dominated. If I'm a slave to myself.

I am to blame because at one point way back I yielded to myself. Likewise, if I obey God. I do so because I yielded myself to Him. It makes practical sense, doesn't it? You are servant to who you yield to. Yield in childhood to selfishness.

And you will find the most enchaining tyranny on earth. There's no power in the human soul itself to break the bondage of a disposition formed by yielding. Yield for one second to anything in nature. Just remember what lust is. And here's a quote: what lust is, I must have it at once. Whether it be lust of the flesh or lust of the mind, once yield.

And though you may hate yourself for having yielded, you're a bond slave to that thing. There's no release in human power at all only in the redemption. You must yield yourself and You are only in the redemption. You must yield yourself in utter humiliation to the only one who can break the dominating power. And by the way, if anyone's locked in any type of sin.

Jesus can break it. He can break it from you. Don't be fooled. The devil may tell you. You can't get through this. Jesus can break it because he has broken the chain for every sin. If anybody here is dominated by something, know this. He goes.

You'll find out most Ridiculously in small ways. Oh. I can give up that habit when I like. You cannot. You will find that the habit absolutely dominates you because you yielded to it willingly. It's an it's it's so easy to sing. He will break me free.

And at the same time be living a life of obvious slavery to yourself. Yielding to Jesus will break you from every form of slavery in the human life. Amen. Yield to him. Sacrifice your lives to him. It's your reasonable service. Be disciplined in your spiritual walk. Have spiritual disciplines of reading and praying and community and always talking to him.

And taking time to be silent. One of the things that I've been learning is sitting before god and just not Don't put radio, don't put phone, just sit quiet. Try it. Our minds are so jacked up. Amen? They race. And just start sitting quietly before God and say.

I'm sitting before you. I want you to calm my spirit. And just sit before God for a half hour. For 15 minutes. Then start reading and praying and asking God to help you. Because we're in a rush. But don't rush spiritually. Because we're in a rush, but don't rush spiritual disciplines. Amen? Okay, let's stand to our feet and we'll pray. Six pages of notes.

I only looked at two, maybe one and a half, and I'm always, I just have to confess. I have holy anxiety. I don't know what I'm gonna say until I open up my mouth and then I I can't shut up. (Audience laughing) Father, you're so good to us. We don't deserve what you've done.

But I just love the way Paul challenges believers. He puts the cross in front of us, and he says, "I beseech you because of the mercies of God."

Because of what Jesus did at Calvary, that's what his challenge is. That's the reasoning behind giving ourselves over. Present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. And that's a reasonable Unacceptable to God and that's our reasonable service. So Lord, we know it is only

practical.

It's only reasonable to give ourselves over to you. And if we haven't. And if we don't do this in a daily thing, I pray you'd speak to your people today. Help each one Lord as we consider ourselves, as we have a hymn of invitation, as we think about the things that we heard, are we intentional? And if not so Are we intentional? And then if not so.

Take a time of prayer and ask God to help you. So Lord. We thank you. Bless in the only way that you can. In Jesus' name, amen.