

John - Commentaries by Robert (Bob) Thonney

The Christian Shepherd: 2001, Do It (2:5)

“Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it” (John 2:5).

This was the instruction from the mother of Jesus to the servants at the wedding feast. How often we want to understand something before we do what the Lord tells us. Here it was simple obedience that was important. We may hesitate because there is a question within ourselves whether we have understood Him properly (see Acts 9:13-17). But once it is clear, there is only one path for faith—pure, simple obedience, leaving the results with Him. The servants might have thought it quite futile to fill those containers with that much water when what they needed was wine. However, they obeyed and took it to the governor of the feast. The result was sweeter—better—than anyone could have imagined.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (John 13:17).

R. Thonney

Des Moines Conference: 1991, I AM, John 1:1 (1:1)

Gospel—R. Thonney

John's Gospel chapter one, verse one. In the beginning. Was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Verse 14 And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory. The glory as of the only begotten of the Father. Full of grace and truth. Dear friends, this evening our desire is to speak to you about the wonderful person of Jesus our Lord. He is called in the first verse of this chapter as we've been meditating in these meetings, the Word of God, the expression God expressing himself to us, He does it through His Word. If I ever thought you don't know what I'm thinking until I open and through means of words express what I'm trying to tell what I'm thinking about, then you know my thoughts. God is a being who is eternal and infinite in His being. No way that I or you as a finite being who have our beginnings, our ends in this life. Can comprehend the infinite? No way. But God. Has expressed the love, the light that he is in his own person through means of the Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus we have a full revelation of who God is. You know, it's interesting to go through the Bible and to consider the different names. That God uses to express himself in the Old Testament. Probably one of the names that is most common is Jehovah. Jehovah. But he has other names as well. The Almighty, the Most High. But one of the names that he has in the Old Testament that I've often enjoyed is I am. Tremendous thing to think about. You know, when I introduced myself to somebody, I have to say I am Bob. That's my name. I have to qualify and I am and you have to too. But when God speaks, he doesn't have to qualify it. He simply says I am because He always is. He is the ever existing one. That's the God we are speaking about tonight. People talk a lot about God today, but I sometimes fear that in people's minds, the God they're thinking about is that God that is pretty well confined to the dictates of their own minds. That's not the God we're talking about tonight. We're talking about an infinite, eternal God, and he's been revealed in the person of the Word of God. Our Lord Jesus Christ. And so we want to speak of the Lord Jesus. The same time that Jesus is Jehovah, Jesus is God in every sense of the Word, we read in verse 14. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, came into this world through the same channel that you and I have come into this world. He was born not in a natural way. Like we are with a father, a human father and a human mother, but he was born by means of a virgin, the Virgin Mary. He came, he had no human father. The Virgin Mary conceived by the power of the Spirit of God. His Father was God, and it's through that means that he was born into this world, the blessed Son of God.

He became flesh, the apostle John says here. And dwelt among us. Just think, the eternal God was walking through this world like a man. The majority of those in that day had no idea who this Jesus was. Some said this is the Carpenter. Yeah, we know his father, his mother there. His brothers and sisters are with us too. We know them. They had no idea who he was. He was the eternal God, and as I think of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Creator, the sustainer of the whole universe. At the same time that he took up little children into his arms and blessed them, he was by the word of his power, sustaining the whole universe in clock like order that it whirls around in space. That's my God, that's the person we're announcing to you tonight. But at the same time that he is so great in his person in the Gospel of John that we want to meditate on this evening, we have him using those precious words. I am again and again and very often. He uses in conjunction with those two words, I am something that you and I can relate to in the very basics of life because although the Scripture, the Gospel of John especially, is profound, it is at the same time simple. This is the word of God, friends, and when I read it and see the depth and at the same time the simplicity of the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, I rejoice. It makes me glad I can understand it. No one can stand up and say I can't understand it. I haven't got a college degree to be able to understand these things. No, you can understand it. Let's go over to the 6th chapter of John to consider one of those places. Where Jesus says I am. John chapter 6 and verse 35. And Jesus said unto them. I am the bread of life, He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. Oh, what a wonderful verse this is. I am the bread of life. Can you understand that? Do you know what bread is? Is it too difficult for you to understand what we need bread for? No, I think everyone understands exactly what we need bread for. For our physical bodies. We need food to sustain us. If we don't, we're going to die in the end. But my friend, you not only have a physical body. You have dwelling in your body a soul and a spirit. And that soul needs food just as much as your body does. And that's why Jesus said I am the bread of life. He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. Oh, I rejoice in those words. You know. I know that a lot of you all relate to what I say, but when I was younger I really enjoyed getting into playing sports and Saturday afternoons off times. That was our occupation. Go out and throw myself into the football game. Hard

as I could. And let me tell you, I enjoyed it, but I still can remember after a time going home after the game was over. It's kind of sore, but, inside there was an empty feeling. Empty. That enjoyment lasted for a while, but it didn't satisfy my soul. And I see young people, and older ones too for that matter.

Throwing themselves with all their interest into sports, into any kind of diversion and amusement. And I know. They're getting some enjoyment out of it for the moment, but I know, and you know too, friend, that's going to leave your heart with a void, an empty void only Jesus can satisfy. That's why he says here in words so plain, I am the bread of life. He that cometh to me shall never hunger. He that believeth on me shall never thirst. That hunger, that thirst, that throbs in your soul, if you're here and you feel it tonight, I want to tell you that the answer is in Jesus. He said I am the bread of life. And if you come to him, it's not something that you'll enjoy for a moment or two, but if you in truth open that heart of yours to accept him as your very own Savior, you. Will never hunger. You will never thirst. I proved it, friends. You know, sometimes people say to me. You Christians, you can't do anything. You can't go to the movies, you don't smoke, you don't drink, you don't do drugs. What do you guys have anyhow going for you? I say, friends, Christianity isn't You can't do this and you can't do that and you can't do the other thing. No, the reality of the matter is that Jesus filled my heart. He filled it so full. I'm really not interested in those other things that are so disastrous to so many people. I'm satisfied I don't need those other things, Friends, that's the truth of the matter. I still remember, maybe I've told this story to some of you, but when I was in Lima, Peru a number of years ago. Is thumbing through the paper. And one picture really caught my attention. It was of a young 16 year old girl and she was standing on top of a building 13 stories high. Getting ready to jump off and to end her life and underneath the fixture was the caption. This girl had three things going for her. She. She was a wealthy, she was from a wealthy family. She was a beautiful girl and she had a good education. She had most of the things any girl would like to have. But, you know, they had left an awful emptiness in her life that she could not stand a moment longer. And it said that they were standing around trying to persuade her not to jump. They couldn't persuade her. She jumped off and ended her life. She didn't know Jesus, friend. The answer isn't difficult, Jesus said. I am the bread of life. He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. Come to Jesus, friend, prove it. You know I could have a piece of bread in my hand and I could die of hunger. I need to satisfy that hunger of mine. I need to eat the bread. I need to put it right down inside of myself. And I greatly fear that there are many who are sitting in gospel meetings like we are tonight, who know about Jesus, but who have never put it inside, who have never accepted the Lord Jesus as their very own. When you eat something, you make it your very own. It becomes part of you. And if you haven't done that, you may know about Jesus. That's not enough. You must receive him in your heart. To as many as received him gave he the power to become the sons of God to them that believe on his name. And so Jesus is the bread of life. Now let's go over to the 8th chapter of this same book.

And the 12th verse. Here again we find Jesus. Using those words I am, but in conjunction with something else that is extremely basic. In life that we all know about. Let's read this verse, John 8:12. Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying. I am the light of the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. Jesus said I am the light of the world. We've been speaking about this a little bit. What is the light? The light is what makes you see everything, what manifests. You cannot hide in the light. You can hide in the dark, but not in the light. In the light, everything is manifest. The guy was mentioning yesterday if we'd switch off the lights in here, I might hear a few noises out there. I can start to guess what might be out there. But if I had come in in the dark and I didn't see you all before, well, I would have. Not too good of an idea. What was what this room was filled with. Somebody comes in and switches on the light. Immediately it becomes manifest. Everything in this room where you're sitting, how you're sitting, if you're paying attention, if you're not paying attention, everything becomes manifest in the light. Everything. Jesus is the light of the world. You know. This story in the eighth of John is an interesting story about one time when the Lord Jesus was here. They brought a woman to Jesus, the religious leaders of that day, the scribes and the Pharisees. They brought a poor woman who had been taking in the very act of adultery, sexual sin. Terrible, shameful thing to be taken in the very act and to be brought. Right into the presence of Jesus standing around so she couldn't escape any way were those religious men and they asked Jesus. Moses told us we should stone her. What do you say? And at first, Jesus didn't answer. He stooped down and started writing on the ground, it says. And they kept asking him and he stood up and he said. Let him that is without sin among you, cast the first stone at her. You know the Scripture says here we had time to read it, that they started going out from the oldest to the youngest, until there was nobody left except Jesus and that poor trembling woman, that poor guilty woman. What made those men go out? It was the light that shone on their consciences. They were as guilty as that poor woman. Their marriage laws allowed them to divorce their women, their wives, and a drop of a hat, and to get another one. They were just as guilty as that poor woman. And so when the light shined on that woman, it had to shine necessarily at the same time on those. Religious. Pharisees, those hypocrites, and it manifested their sin, and they couldn't stand the light, and instead of staying to receive pardon from the only one that could give it, they all went out. They all went out to escape, to get back to the dark. Is there some area of your life that's shameful that you don't want anybody to know about? I want to tell you there's somebody that knows every single detail of it. You cannot hide from Jesus. You must meet Him someday. And if you try running away from him now, it's only for a time that you'll be able to run away from because you're going to meet face to face with Jesus someday. How much better to come to him now in recognition? Of your sin before God in confession and receive his pardon, his forgiveness, He wants to forgive you here since. And so when Jesus looked up and only saw the poor woman standing there, she said.

Where are those men that were accusing you? No one stayed around to accuse you, she said. No, man, Lord. And he said, neither do I condemn you. Go and sin. No more wonderful words of our Savior. He did not come to condemn the world. He came to save my friend. He's here tonight to save you. He wants to save you. Won't you let him save you tonight? But if you refuse to be saved, I say you must meet Him. You must meet Him someday, and if you refuse to come to Him and receive His forgiveness, His salvation that He offers free and full to all now. You will have to do about the question of your sins with Him in a future day, and without any hope of mercy or salvation. That is this plain. Teaching of the Holy Word of God. And I ask you, my friend, to consider it solemnly. In the presence of God, Jesus is the light of the world. How awful to be walking in darkness. If you walk down a road in the dark, thank God in this country you've got lots of lights and you don't have to walk, generally speaking, in places that are too dark. But if you walk down a dark Rd. without any light, if there's a hole up ahead in the road and you're walking along and you don't see that hole, you fall square into it. You know that's what's happening to people today. They fall into drugs, they fall into alcohol, they fall into all sorts of problems. Why? Why does that happen? Because they are walking in darkness. They don't know where they're gone and everything topsy turvy in their lives. They don't know which way is up. Is that the way it is in your life? My friend, I want to tell you, Jesus is the light of the world. He said he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light. Of life, come to Jesus. Oh, how wonderful to know where you're going, to see what's ahead. Come to Jesus, you'll know where you're going. You'll be able to see what's ahead. Let's go on over to the 10th chapter now of John's Gospel. John chapter 10 and verse 9. Here we have some more of the words of our Lord Jesus. Very simple. But profound. John 10 and 9:00. I am the door. By me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture. How simple this is. You know what a door is. Everybody uses a door almost every day

of their life. When we go camping out in the Wilds, we don't use the door for a few days, but we all know what doors are. How did you get in here? You came in through the door. There's no other way to come in through this. There's not even any windows. A few small windows perhaps, but that's not the way to come in. You come in through the door, and if you want to be saved, if you want to get into salvation, you must come through the door. Jesus said I am the door by me. If any man enter in, he shall be saved. I want to make something clear here this evening. Some people think when we stand up on a podium like this and we open the Bible that we're talking about religion. Friend, that's far away from my thoughts tonight. We're not talking about religion, we're talking about Jesus. The Son of God. We're talking about a person that really, truly lived down here. We're not talking about some philosophy that's difficult to comprehend. We're talking about a man who lived in this world, who walked through this world. A man, a real man, who died. And who rose again? He is the door. He didn't say in any part of the scripture. Religion is the door. Never. Religion may have its good points, may have its bad points.

But religion is not the door to salvation. If you want to be saved, you must come to Jesus, he said in words so simple that you wouldn't mistake it. I am the door by me if any man enter in. He shall be saved. Then go on to the 11 verse of this chapter. We get another time that Jesus says I am, I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. Shepherds and sheep. I don't suppose there's too many people here who know a lot about shepherding and sheep like they do in other areas of the world. Maybe out West they know a little bit about it. I suppose there's a few sheep around. But South America, where I had the privilege of living a number of years, there's a lot of sheep and a lot of shepherds. And I've got to know people who have worked as shepherds. It's interesting to talk to them, to ask them stories about the natural enemies that sheep have. South America, there's a number of natural enemies. They have the Condor, that bird that's 10 to 12 feet wingspan. That will swoop down and catch a little lamb and take it away if they're not careful, if they're not watchful. They also have foxes. And they have the Mountain Lion in South America, remember? Hearing the story of a young boy who was taking care of the sheep and goats at one place. The Mountain Lion appeared. That boy went tearing down the mountain pretty fast. But hear the Lord Jesus says. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. You know Scripture speaks of us in that simile of sheep. We are like sheep. Isaiah 53 verse six says all we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way. Isn't that true? You go out in the streets of Des Moines this evening and you're going to find everybody doing their own thing. And they don't like it when you tell them not to do that. I've got my rights to do my own thing. That's just exactly what God has said in His Word. Oh, we, like sheep, have gone astray. We've turned everyone to His own way. That's exactly like we are. But you know, Jesus is the Good Shepherd and he's not going to turn away when the enemy comes. You and I have an enemy too, that is seeking the destruction of your soul. And I marvel at how the enemy of our souls, Satan. Can get young people into eternal perdition so fast they don't have to grow up to die any longer. They die young. Because we have a terrible enemy. Don't try to deny it, friend. There are powers in this world that are awful, that are awful. You know it yourself and that you cannot escape on your own. If you're not going to be caught in one side, there's going to be some other side where you will get caught. You need somebody to help you. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He gave his life for the sheep. And I want to stop here to tell you. About this fact that he gave his life, Jesus came. He was the only man in this world who never sinned and as such he didn't have to die. Word tells us that the wages of sin is death. Since Jesus never sinned, he didn't have to die. The time came when he could have gone directly back to heaven, to the Father where he had come from. But he chose to die. He chose to go meet the enemy of our souls. He chose to go destroy him. You know how he destroyed him? Satan was the one who wielded the power of death and held all men in fear because of death that he wielded as a sword. And Jesus went to the cross. He allowed himself to be taken and nailed through his hands and his feet to the cross. He was hung up there for all to pass by, to mock and to scorn.

He was crowned with thorns. His face was beaten. Until it was so marred more than any man. And for three hours, the scripture tells us in the record that he suffered from the insults of man, his creature, as he hung on that cross. For three hours they strung out in front of him, the religious leaders too, to keep insults on him. And then at 12 noon till 3:00 in the afternoon. The whole earth got dark, and in three dark hours God laid on Jesus. My sin and Jesus took the punishment that I deserved to. There in hell forever he took it, and he bore it all. He paid my debt. He paid it in full. When he finished those three awful hours, he cried out. It is finished. The debt that I owe to God, that awful debt that would have sunk me into eternal hell. That debt he paid in full. He died. He gave his life. After he was hanging lifeless on that cross, a soldier, a Roman soldier, brought a spear and put it into his side and out of his side full of blood and water. The testimony that his life had been given, the price was paid in full for the wages of sin is death, and Jesus died. He paid. The price of my redemption. Isaiah chapter 53 verse five says He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. Can you include yourself there, friend? I have included myself there. Thank God He died for me. He died for you, friend, and he wants to extend to you this forgiveness, this salvation. Jesus is the Good Shepherd that gave his life. For the sheep, go on over to the next chapter, the 11th chapter, and verse 25. Jesus said unto her, He's speaking to Martha. I am the resurrection and the life he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. Here we have a situation that is pretty hopeless as far as man is concerned. There was a family that lived in a town of Bethany. It was a family of three, two brothers, two sisters and a brother. There may have been others who lived there, but at least we know that they lived there. Martha was her house and Mary her sister and Lazarus the brother. And they lived there and Lazarus got sick and when he got really sick, they called for Jesus to come. They knew if he would come. He could heal Lazarus of his sickness and he wouldn't die, but before Jesus got there. Lazarus died and by the time Jesus has gotten there. He had been in the grave for four days, Four days. Anything more hopeless than a person who's died? Is there anybody in this whole world that you can call some great scientist, some great doctors that would have the power of restoring life to a dead body? Is there? Please tell me there is. You know there isn't. There wasn't any hope. But my friend, if your life is like that. If you feel there's no hope. Things are in such an awful mess. I want to tell you there is hope when things appear most hopeless. There is hope in Jesus, he said. I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And so Jesus with those two sisters that were weeping.

Went to where? Lazarus had been buried. They buried different in those days. They had kind of like a hole in the Cliff and a stone was up on the hole to close the entrance to that grave and Lazarus was inside laying there dead. And the Lord Jesus commanded for them to take the stone away. And they took it away. And then he said Lazarus come forth and even though he was bound, that was the way they buried people in those days. They wound them up with claws. And Lazarus, even though he was wound up. And really it would almost seem impossible to walk even if you did have life. That dead man came out of that tomb. Why? Because the creator of the universe had said come out and he came out. Friend, if your situation seems pretty hopeless tonight, I want to tell you that there is hope in Jesus. He said I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth on me, though he were dead yet. Shall he live? There's hope, a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Death may touch his body, but we will never die. No, the moment that death touches the body, we go straight into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Life. He died. He rose again. And because he died and rose again, when I accept him as my Savior, I know that I will rise again too. He is the resurrection and the life. But I must say another word here. Jesus not only has power of resurrection. For those who

believe in him. Jesus has power of resurrecting those who do not believe in him in chapter 5 of this gospel. I'd just like to read it. You don't have to look at it, but it says in verse 28, marvel not at this. These are the words of Jesus for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall. Hear his voice. And shall come forth they that have done good unto the resurrection of life. And they that have done evil unto the resurrection of condemnation. There are two resurrections, not just one. Like sometimes as thought, there is a resurrection of life. Those who do good in accepting the testimony of God will be included in the resurrection of life. But my friend, as I've already said earlier on, if you do not accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. If you refuse him, if you die in your sins, Jesus will raise you from the dead as well. The hour is coming when all that are in the graves shall hear His voice. I remember standing on a. On the Andes Mountains in southern Peru, IN a town way out beyond the end of the road and talking from the edge of this town to a teacher who taught in that town. He was graduate of a university in Peru. And there, right underneath on the hillside, was the cemetery of the town. And he told me, he said, you know, we debated the issue when we were at school, and we came to the conclusion that that's the end of math.

I say, I said to him, Friend, you know what? You are not the person that can declare such matters that God that made you. The God that made me says that every single person who has died in this world is going to raise again, is going to come out of his grave. And I've walked through cemeteries at times in those high Andes mountains where the bones are all scattered around on the ground. I don't know how they got out. But God knows where every single person is, and come that day of judgment, there will be no way that you can escape Jesus. You must meet Him. He is unavoidable. What we're telling you now is that you can have salvation through Jesus by accepting in this day of salvation His forgiveness, His. Full salvation. But if you do not accept him, you must meet Him in that final day of resurrection, the resurrection of condemnation. And John, John speaks to us of it. The same writer who wrote the Gospel of John in the book of Revelations speaks of that day when the heavens and the earth are going to pass away. And the dead, since they cannot be in the earth any longer, because the earth is not going to last forever. The earth is going to be gone. Those dead bodies are going to be called out, and the dead. Going to be raised to stand before God and he said there's a great white throne standing there in space and the dead are standing in front of that throne. No way you can escape Jesus. He's going to be sitting on that throne. It's a great white throne. God and all the purity, the holiness of his character is going to have to judge those who have steadily rejected, refused his salvation. And it says the books are opened. God has the record of your life. Every detail of it, my friend, nothing has escaped his notice. Every word you've spoken, every act you've done, every thought you've entertained is recorded in the books above. And it says the dead were judged according to those things that were written in the books. Nothing will escape as you stand there naked before God. Nowhere to escape, nowhere to run away. And you're judged and it's going to become evident. You heard the gospel of the grace of God, you refused it. And then in that day it says there's another book there, the Book of Life. In the Book of life are written the names of all those who trust in Jesus. And it says those that were not found written in the book of life were cast into the lake of fire. That is the end of those who do not accept Jesus as savior. You saying don't try scare tactics on me friend. Whatever you want to call it, I don't care. But I tell you this is from the. Mouth of the only one who never told a lie. He spoke of it. Hell and eternal fire. He spoke of it more than anybody else in the whole word of God. Jesus spoke of it and I warned you in love to your soul I plead with you. God has roadblock the road to hell. With the cross of Christ. And if you must go to hell, you will go around the cross of Christ to get to hell. Don't go around it. Stop. Accept Jesus as your Savior. He is the resurrection and the life. One more verse like to comment on briefly in chapter 14. And verse 6. And the most beautiful? The simplest. Verses we find in Holy Scripture.

Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth. And the life no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. Three things that Jesus is here, I am the way. The truth. The life, in other words, friends, there is no. Other way but Jesus, there is no other truth. But Jesus, he said, if you know Jesus, you know the truth. The truth isn't found in religion as such, it is found in the person Jesus. You know, there's some people that say that Jesus was a Goodman, that's all. But I submit to you, friend, that Jesus could not be a Goodman if what he said wasn't entirely true. He would have been one of the worst deceivers that could have ever lived when he said I am the way the truth we live in a day when in religious circles it's popular to say. Yeah, there's a lot of ways. You just pick whatever one you like, and all you have to do is have a lot of faith. Have enough faith, and you'll be all right. Friend, you won't be all right. I'm warning you right now, Jesus said. I am the way. You must accept that fact or else reject Jesus. There is no middle ground. He cannot be a good man. If it was not true that He is the way, the truth and the light. No man cometh to the Father but by me. You cannot accept him as a Goodman if that wasn't true. But my friend, we're here this evening. That fled with you with all our hearts to don't turn away from Jesus. You may know about him, but tonight with all my heart, I want to plead with you, please open that heart of yours. Receive him as your very own Savior tonight have Jesus, you have everything. Don't have Jesus, you don't have anything. Friend accept him tonight. As your very own savior, if thou shalt confess with thy mouth. The Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, now shall be saved. Let's pray.

Chicago Conference: 2016, Eternal Life (17:3)

Address—R. Thonney

Let's begin our meeting with #278. You'll notice this This hymn is really a prayer. And so let's challenge ourselves as we sing it. That we sing it in sincerity to the Lord as a prayer. Savior, we long to follow Thee daily, Thy cross to bear it. Count all elsewhere ere it be unworthy of our care. Notice the last verse. Oh, teach us, soul, the power to know of risen life with Thee not we may live while here below, but Christ. Our life may be. 278. Savior we long to follow. Thee. I miss stuck it brethren, somebody else help me. And. What were they all the art? We are. I love you, my love. Sunshine. Oh God. My strength and grace. Let's pray.

Like to start out with well known gospel verse in John 5. In verse 24. And read verse 24 and 25. Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me. Hath eternal life, everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but his past from death into life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming. And now is when the dead shall hear. The voice of the Son of God, and they that hear. Shall live. Want to speak on this subject of eternal life? Where does it start? And here in both verses 24 and 25, you have a verse, a word that's repeated. It's hearing. Starts in verse 24. He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me. It's often been mentioned that that's our part in this verse. God's part in the remaining three things it says, Has everlasting life shall not come into condemnation, and his past from death unto life. But it comes through hearing. Now notice verse 25. The hour is coming and now is that's this present time in which we live when the dead, these are not the physically dead, but the spiritually dead. The person has not accepted the Lord Jesus as their

Savior. They are looked at as dead. In trespasses and sins, no. Life movement towards God. Spiritually. And it says, the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live. This is a miracle. How do dead people hear? You know, we might have stood outside the grave of Lazarus. He'd been buried and was in the grave for four days. And if we would have stood outside there, we could have hollered all we wanted and he would have never heard anything we said. But there was one who came to that grave. He was the Son of God. And when the Son of God speaks the dead here, and he said Lazarus come forth. And Lazarus, even though he is all wound up with those grave clothes, the way they used to bury people, he came out. Why? Because the Son of God, the One who created the whole universe, had spoken and said, come forth. He had to come out and he did. And to me it is a most wonderful thing to see God communicating this new life, this eternal life or everlasting life. You want to put it that way? It's the really same word in the original. Eternal life. By his word. You know, we're all born into this world through the natural processes and through the seed of a man. We have been born by a woman and we have natural life. You and I didn't decide to be born, that was our parents choice. I want to say to you something else. If you are born again, you did not decide to be born again either. You may at certain time have made a decision to accept Christ as your Savior. That's great, and that's important. But even spiritual birth is because of the will, not of man, nor of the will of the flesh, but of God. And so God sends forth his word, and so often in the Scriptures it says he that has an ear, let him hear. Oh, if there's anything, I want to encourage you.

This afternoon is to open the ears of your heart. Listen to what God has to say. I don't care if you don't particularly like my form of speaking and you want to ignore what I say, but listen to what God says because it's going to make an eternal difference. Listen. Hear what he has to say, because when he speaks, even the dead here. And so begins a life. Eternal life, What is eternal life? You know, I find that lots of people have the idea that eternal life, and it's not wrong idea is a life that never ends. That is true. But so much more than that because I find that people think, well, I accept Jesus as my savior and I have eternal life now I'm going to live forever. Yes, that's true, but it's far more than just living forever, and I'd like to look at a few portions of scripture that give us to understand what eternal life really is. We're in John's Gospel, so let's turn over to the 10th chapter and the Lord Jesus is speaking here in the 10th chapter and we're going to read. Verse 10. The thief cometh not but for to steal. And to kill and to destroy. Now this part. I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. Your translation leaves more out. That they might have life abundantly. Eternal life is life in abundance. It's not so much the duration of the life, it's the quality of the life. There are people that are living in prison and misery. Would you call that abundant life? No, not exactly. They're living, but eternal life is life in abundance. Let's look at the 17th chapter already read in this chapter this today, but in the 17th chapter, I want you to. Read with me verse 3. This is life eternal that they might know. The the only true God in Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. So eternal life. What is it? It is the life of knowing God and Jesus Christ whom he sent to me. It is the most wonderful thing to be able to say. That eternal God that never had a beginning. I know him. Can you really say that? If you know the Lord Jesus, you can say that? That's what eternal life is. It's not what I am, it's what He is. There's the focus on Him, not on us. Oh, it's wonderful, brethren, to think about it. You and I can know God in the fullest sense of the word because of what the Lord Jesus did, because He came to reveal to us the Father. And so annoying him, we are brought into the knowledge of God. In all his fullness. Often have mentioned that the Muslim religion says God is. Unknown and unknowable. Poor people, over a billion people in this world today pledge allegiance to a God that they don't know and that they cannot know. And you say you know God. That is eternal life.

The knowledge of the true God. In the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Another verse I want to read in First Timothy chapter 6. Actually 2 verses here. Verse 12. Paul is addressing Timothy here and he says fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold on eternal life, where unto thou art also called, and has professed a good profession before many witnesses. Notice verse 19. Laying up in the store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come that they may lay hold on eternal life. If you look at the new translation, it says lay hold on that which is really life. You know, people think that doing their own thing in this world is living it up. I'm going to tell you it is not living it up. If you want to really know what living is. Lay hold on that which is eternal life. In other words, there is a necessity of you and me to exercise our faith, to lay hold of something. And this is the exercise I have, brethren, is that I see young people. They're doing so often their own thing and they're not satisfied, they're not happy. Sometimes I say I'm bored. Why? Because they don't know that. They're not living the right life, the eternal life that God has set before us. They think that just living down here in this world and spending money and then doing things that they like to do, and this is life. That is not it. That's not what we're talking about. And oh, brethren, I'd like to speak a little bit more about this life that we're talking about because there are some characteristic things that are very distinctive than the life, the natural life that we have here in this world. When we're born, we're born with a sin nature. And sin. Is that which separates from God, because God is naturally is holy. He is intrinsically holy. In other words, His Holiness is something that cannot be compromised. And so if you and I are going to have fellowship with God, if we're going to know him, it's got to be on a basis. Where sin has been addressed and the Lord Jesus came into the world with that purpose in mind to address that sin question, and he did it. On the cross and this is the mystery of mysteries, the. Eternal Son of God, the Creator of the universe. Hung on a cross of wooden outside of Jerusalem. Not only rejected by man, but in three hours of darkness. God laid on him the iniquity of us all, and the storm of divine judgment fell on him in all its fury. For three hours the waves and billows Divine judgment broke over him. Never understand it. The eternal Son of God addressed that question. He settled it because before he died, he said it is finished. The work of redemption is done. God has been satisfied with what Jesus did, and then he died. He laid down his life. Didn't stay dead. Buried in the third day, he rose from the dead by the power of God. And he is living now. And now, because of what He has done on that grass, He offers eternal life to all those who will simply believe in Him. But we have to understand this life, this eternal life.

Where is it? And I'd like to go back to Romans chapter 6 to speak about it a bit because it's important that we understand the position that God sees us in. If we are believers in the Lord Jesus, I know that there may be those who are newer in their faith. In the Lord Jesus. But I want to say to you, this is true of you just as. Much it is as the one who has been in the Lord for many years. This is true of you. So I want you to be able to understand the way God views you, your position before him. Now if you have believed in the Lord Jesus, notice the end of the 5th chapter and verse 20 it says. Moreover, the law entered that. The fence might abound, but where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. For God's grace you cannot limit it. And if God is going to be gracious, he has to have a basis to do it on, and he does. Because of what Jesus did on the cross. But now notice in chapter 6 and verse one. What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? If we just keep on sinning, then grace will abound more and more. Is that the Christian position? Verse two. God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein? Know ye not that so many of us as we're baptized? Into Jesus Christ we are baptized into his death, therefore we are buried with him by baptism and to death. That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, Even so we also should walk in newness of life. So he says. In Christ we are looked at as dead to sin. Does a dead man sin? Have you ever seen a dead man sinning? Might have been a person who is a drunkard all his life. Always grabbing the bottle. He died. Now offer him a drink, will you? Is he going to stick out his hand to take it? No, what happened? He died. And you and I, when we accept the Lord Jesus as our Savior, God looks at us as dead indeed unto sin. What do you do with dead people? Why you bury him? And so it says, we are buried with

him. By baptism into death. So when a person is accepts the Lord as a savior and they're baptized. That is. Figure of burial. Once the person is buried, do you go out and check in the cemetery and see how they're doing, open up the casket and see how they're doing once in a while? No, you don't do that. Why not? It's going to get worse every time you open that casket. And I see young people, they start looking back at themselves and. And they get terribly discouraged. And they get depressed. I want to say to you. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus, God looks at you as dead and buried. Leave it where it has been put. It's not something that you and I do. It's something that God has done for us. We are dead and buried and it doesn't end there because it says at the end of verse four that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, Even so we also may walk in newness of life so we are identified with the Lord Jesus. In his resurrection as well. In other words, the life that we're talking about, that eternal life, is a life that is beyond death.

I like to think of it this way sometimes, the life that I naturally possess. In this world we live, and then the final is we die. But in the life that we're talking about, this eternal life, death comes first, and then we have a life that will never, ever die. Not wonderful to think about. That life can never be touched. Death may touch this body because it's connected with the first creation. But it can never touch the life that I possess in the Lord Jesus. Wonderful realities. I know we understand these things to explain them, but what exercises me, brethren, is that it doesn't seem worth living the life that we have been given. And I want to challenge you to live it. So if you go down a little bit further in this chapter, notice verse 11. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lust thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin. But yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your. Members as instruments of righteousness unto God for sin. Shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law, but under grace. So here it says, Reckon ye yourselves to be dead indeed, and to sin. Reckon simply as an old word we don't use too much today that means think this way. Reckon ye yourselves think that you are really dead to sin and alive to God. You know what my reaction was when I was younger? I don't feel very dead to sin. When their sins temptation around. I feel like doing it. There's something inside of me that says do it. Yes, that's the sin nature that's there. But we are to think that we are dead to sin. And is there temptation for a dead man? As we've already mentioned, there's no temptation for a dead man. It's for a person that's living that there's temptation and we are dead indeed. And so when temptation comes. We need to think this way. Remember, when it presents itself, there may be inside you a impulse on the part of the flesh, because the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the spirit against the flesh, and these things are contrary to one another, so that you might not do the things that you ought to, but. It's that we need to think God's thoughts about this. Don't go by your feelings, merely go by God's word. Feelings vary. Feelings change. You can't trust them. Feelings are very real. I'm not going to say that they're not real. They are real. But don't trust your feelings. Trust the Word of God. Reckon ye yourselves to be dead, indeed unto sin, but alive unto God. Remember when I was younger the struggle I went through? In this issue. Of things that I felt in my life were grieving to the Lord, and I would confess it to the Lord and say I'm sorry and I'd get up with more determination not to do it again. And before I realized I was doing it again. It was the struggle that sometimes I think we all go through it in a more or less in different phases of it depending on our particular personality, but. It was a struggle and I finally came to myself and said what is the problem here? What am I not getting that I keep on doing this?

And then the Lord showed me the simplicity of His word. You're dead indeed to sin. The next time the temptation came up, I said to myself, I'm dead to that, and there was no struggle at all. It was just simply to think God's thoughts about it. And so I just want to express these things because if you're going to live eternal life, if you're going to lay hold of it, then I want to say it's on the other side of death in resurrection territory. That's where God sees us. In chapter 6, we are dead to sin. In Chapter 7, we're dead to something else. Look at. Verse 4. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ, that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. So we're not only dead to sin, we're dead to the law. There's a dead man laying out on the floor there. Would you feel free to come up here and give him the commandments of the law? Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy might, and with all thy strength, and with all thy soul. Has no effect on him. He's dead. That's our position too. You know what? If I was living, that law would be a stimulus to my fleshly nature. It provokes the flesh. When God says to this sinful nature, don't do that, I want to do it. When he says do that, I don't want to do it because the flesh is contrary to God. Always is, always has been, always will be, never can be. Any change in that. That's why God has given us a completely. New life in Christ eternal life, and so the sin, the the law is the. Power of sin. In other words, it provokes sin into action. But since now I'm dead, I'm not only dead to sin, I'm dead to the law. If there was a man that was condemned to die in the Cook County jail, I don't know how they do it here in Illinois. Or they have capital punishment. I don't even know that. But if he was condemned to die tomorrow morning at 8:00. That was the sentence of the law. And tomorrow at 7:30, the jailer goes in to take him out so that he can be executed. But he finds when he gets in there that the guy has died during the night. What are they going to do with them now? Are they going to execute him? No, why not? He's dead. The law does not apply to dead people, it applies to people that are alive. And so these are points to think about. Then further down in this chapter, you're going to find that the person that's speaking here. Is really struggling just notice it verse 14 for we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do, I allow not for what I would that do I not, but what I hate that I do. You see the struggle that's going on inside them, pretty violent struggle. If then I do that which I would not, I can send into the law that it is good. There's no problem with the law. Problem is with me. Verse 17. Now then, it is no more I that doeth, but sin that dwelleth in me. There is a positive step. He's learned something. What is it that it's not I that do it, but sin that dwells in him? There are two natures there that are battling it out, and that's why he's struggling. So. For I know that in me that is in my flesh dwelleth no good thing, for to Will is present with me. But how to perform that which is good, I find not.

You know, we're taught. Especially in this country to have healthy self esteem. I'm not sure what they would say about this verse 18. I know that in me. That is, in my flesh dwelleth no good thing. And I think sometimes the reason there is such a struggle is that we do have a high esteem for what we are. We have to realize that before God, there is nothing there that God can appreciate. Absolutely nothing. Verse 19 For the good that I would, I do not, but the evil which I would not that I do. Verse 20 Now if I do that which I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me again I say he's. Realizing now that there's two principles inside of him that are battling it out. One is that sin, nature, and then those of us who have been born of God. There's the new nature and they are contrary to one another. And so there is this struggle, and it goes on to the end of the chapter when he says in verse 24, Oh, wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I understand that in Roman times, one of the punishments inflicted on for certain crimes was to chain a dead body to a person, and he had have to live with that dead body strapped to him until it completely rotted off of him. That's the figure of speech that is given here. Oh, wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death. And the answer is in verse 25. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I serve the law of God, but with the flesh, the law of sin. The answer is in the Lord Jesus. We are now looked at as dead with Christ buried and risen again. Now notice in chapter 8 there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus. What is your position in Christ Jesus? Isn't this wonderful? You know, it's not looking at what we are, it's looking at who he is. In

the Old Testament, Noah built an ark and he and his household went into that ark, and God shut the door after he was in that ark. You might have asked, where is Noah? Don't see him around anymore. He's in the ark. And so they looked in that direction. All they could see was that ark with all its strength. To save them from the judgment that was going to fall. On this world we are in Christ Jesus, and worse, Christ Jesus. He is there in the glory of God, in our position as in Him. Is there any possibility that condemnation could fall on the Lord Jesus? Absolutely impossible. And we are in Christ Jesus, no condemnation. But now notice verse 2. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. There's two laws, you might say, two principles of life. The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. That's what's characteristic of Christianity. But then there's the law of the sin of sin and death that prevails in this world. And it's the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus that makes us free from the law of sin and death. Somebody has used the illustration of the law of gravity. If I let loose of this pen, what's going to happen? It's going to fall to the ground. Are you sure this is going to happen every time? Yeah, it's going to always fall to the ground. You sure that sometime I let it loose, it might not go up and touch the ceiling? Yeah, I'm sure. Why? Because there's the law of gravity. It always is true.

What? We're going to introduce a different principle here. We're going to take a helium balloon and we're going to tie it to this pen, and now I'm going to let it loose. What happens? It goes up. Hey, what happened to the law of gravity? I thought you said everything always goes down. Yes, but you introduced a different principle, and that's what we're talking about here. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. To me, it is a wonderful thing to realize we have been made free. From the law of sin and death. Now notice verse 3 for what the law could not do. Now it's if the context is the law of Moses here. In that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. Notice how carefully it guards the Lord's. Holy humanity and the likeness of sinful flesh. Not in sinful flesh and for sin condemned sin in the flesh. You know what? God Forgives our sins. But that sin nature that produces those sins God never forgives. He has condemned it once and for all. When the Lord Jesus came, there was perfect goodness in him. And what happened to him? They gave him the worst treatment possible. They nailed him to a cross. They let him die there. God says the test is over. There's nothing good in man, in the flesh, absolutely it's condemned. And you know, sometimes we don't accept that. We think, oh, there might be something good yet in me. No, I know Paul said in Chapter 7 that in me that is in my flesh dwelleth. No good thing, And so it's condemned. That notice verse 4. The righteousness of the law doesn't say that the law might be fulfilled. But the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in US who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Because the characteristic of a real believer is walking after the Spirit, not after the flesh. The flesh is still in us, but we are not in the flesh, we are in the Spirit, it says. And it's important to realize those things and to lay hold of them if you're going to understand what we've been talking about of laying hold of eternal life. Notice verse 5. For they that are after the flesh to mind the things of the flesh, but they that are. The Spirit, the things of the Spirit. What kind of things do you mind? If I would go to your house. I would go to your room. Where you have the Internet. And where you're looking at things on the Internet. Would it be evident that you are living according to the flesh? Or according to the Spirit, there are things that get ahold of people. ***** has been one that has been a terrible problem even amongst those that say they're Christians. And I want to challenge you. If you are a real believer in the Lord Jesus, are you living your eternal life? Or are you just kind of hold that off on the corner and say. I'll take care of that sometime, but I want to do some of this other stuff too. You are robbing yourself of the enjoyment of what God means you to have in eternal life. Verse six For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life. And peace, because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh, notice that cannot please God. Pretty dramatic statement. They that are in the flesh cannot please God. Notice verse 9. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. If so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. So Christian position is in the Spirit. So the flesh may impulse you to react in a certain way.

Don't give place to it. Don't give your members as instruments of unrighteousness. You get up in the morning, commend yourself to God, and as you do so. Present yourself to God as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness. Oh, it's wonderful when we can simply live this out in our lives. Dear brother and sister in the Lord Jesus, I just like to. Read a few more verses that talk about this because I find it so challenging in the world that we live in. Brethren, the life that we have is not a life of self pleasing. The last Christian that came out was. A pamphlet that said Self. And that is the American way of life. Have it your way. You deserve it. All the focus is on what we are. That is not Christianity. Even Christ pleased not Himself. The life that we have in the Lord Jesus is a life of self sacrifice. Let's look at some verses before we get to the end of our time here in Galatians chapter two, well known verse, verse 20. I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless I live. Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh. I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. To me that's beautiful. What kind of life is it? He says. I'm crucified with Christ. Would you find it particularly nice to be crucified? I'd find it pretty excruciating and sometimes to say no to that flesh of ours. We're not going to find it that pleasant. But he says the life that I now live in the flesh, it's not I, but it is Christ. And he says I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. It's a giving. God is a giving God and He wants His people to be giving people. Brethren, we're living in such a tremendous world of need. I see the pictures of down in Haiti. Just Lemoyne sent me the other day an article. Of areas of Haiti, 90% of the dwellings have been totally destroyed. Does that say anything to your heart? Mind? Are we going to just say, well that's interesting and pass on? Rather than that's not the life that we've been given, it's a life of giving. I don't know how the Lord may touch you to be exercised. There's not only Haiti, there's so many other parts of this world. But to live in this life and just to live it up for ourselves as is the American Dream is not the answer. That is not laying hold of eternal life. And I must say I have found those who have given up their lives to serve others with sacrifice and let me tell you, it is the most rewarding thing there is. That's the way we brought up in this land. And I must say, to visit other countries to see poverty has been a challenge to me. Don't think I'm trying to point the finger at anybody here. I have to point the finger right at myself. I know that naturally speaking, I like to have things comfortable the way I like them to be. That is not eternal life. Eternal life is to live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. Go over to Colossians. Colossians Chapter 2 we have what we've already mentioned. Just going to point it out. Verse 13, it says you being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, we're dead. Notice verse 12, buried with him in baptism. There's the second thing, we're buried.

We're in also. Ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. So we're dead bearing and risen again. Now go to chapter 3, verse one. If then ye be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection or your mind on things above, not on things on the earth, for ye are dead. And your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Oh, this is wonderful. We are if you are a real believer, you are risen with Christ. And the exhortation is set your mind on things above, not on things on this earth. Let me tell you, that speaks to my own heart a lot. So often I come to the end of the day and say, how much time have I given to thinking of those things that are above? I'm afraid it is mighty small the amount I've been thinking about things about. But brethren, we are called not to earthly glory. There's

going to be earthly glory in this world. We're called to eternal glory, heavenly glory. And are we not going to be thinking a little bit about it before we go? That's what it's talking to us about here, the importance of setting our mind on things. Above says you are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. In other words, the world around is not going to understand us because our life is hidden. What in the world those Christians live, they deny and they deny themselves as so many things I don't understand they might say. Yeah, that's true, because our life is hid. Verse four says, When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Now, this is the appearing, This is not the rapture that it's speaking about, but you know the. Teaching of Scripture that at the end of that great tribulation period. Is going to be what is called the glorious appearing or the appearing of the glory of the great God in our Savior Jesus Christ? I think it will be the vastest display of glory that there will ever be in this world is when God introduces His Son into this world. At the end of that tribulation period, heaven is going to open. And that man that hung dead on the cross is going to come. With the myriads of heaven, all his Saints, and. Also the hosts of the mighty angels. You and I are going to be there. We are going to witness it first hand. We need to live in view of that day, that glory, that eternal glory. Oh, brethren. Are we just living, trying to get by down here in this world, just struggling, just kind of messed up in our thinking? Are we trying to please ourselves in some way? You know, when I see the Lord Jesus and his life down here, the simplicity of his life, He didn't have hardly anything. He could say. The birds of the air have nests, the foxes have holes. The Son of man has not where to lay his head. The glorious eternal Son of God, the Creator of the universe, did not have a place to lay his head. He probably spent a lot of the nights out into the stars. You never have any record of him having a piece of money in his pocket. When it was the need of others, he always had with what the wherewithal to supply it, but he did not do anything for his own pleasure. He had miraculous power to do miracles, to heal, to raise the dead, but he never did any miracles for his own benefit. That was not his life. That's not our life either.

To do things for our own benefit? Yes, a father is responsible to provide. For his children and provide covering and food that is very clear in Scripture, but to be more simple in our living habits, brethren, the Lord help us to do that because we're getting down to the end when everything is going to. Be left behind at a moment's notice. O brethren, the Lord grant us that we could live in view of that coming day. Do you want to go back again to? First Timothy 6. To just read again that verse we read at the beginning. Verse 12. Paul's injunction to Timothy. Fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold on eternal life. Or if I can paraphrase it, what it is in the 17th verse or in the 19th verse lay hold on that which is really life. Are you hearing me? Young people, older ones too? Are you hearing what God says? Lay hold on that which is really life. Let's pray.

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