

10.2 Aliens in a Balanced Church

Transcription

I remember once seeing this show. And it was about the coast guard rescuing these people whose boat had capsized, and the waves are like 3, 4 stories tall, and this little boat, this boat had capsized, there are 3 or 4 people holding on to the side of this thing, and it was like beginning to submerge, and the Coast...(sound effect))...here comes the helicopter.....OK, and it comes over them, but it can't get too low, because of course the waves are so high, and the boat is going up and down, so as they try to S..they begin letting out that little basketball. ...(And it has, like a guy in scuba gear that is inside this basket. The purpose of him being in the basket coming down to the boat is to help the people get onto the basket so they can be saved..so it's coming down..like this and the waves are coming, and the wind is coming, and you notice the basket is beginning to swing..and you're like freaking out, because you're afraid the helicopter's going to go down as well but finally, the basket hits the water. But of course, another wave comes up and it's beginning to just cover this little boat. The people are barely holding on for dear life, and you're thinking, is the basket going to get there on time? So little by little by little the basket gets over there, but then it swings past them and they miss it, and then of course, it swings past them and they miss it again, and the guy's like this and so he finally jumps out of the thing, and he's trying to swim of course and then the waves.. .I'm worn out watching this show, much less telling you about it, but anyway, so, this basket goes up one person at a time, and finally, right as that boat is about to sink completely, the four people are in, but now, the guy in the scuba outfit is still now just kind of clinging to this boat. It's going up and down the waves, but now, he's- barely has his head above the water because, this boat is completely sinking, and so they send the basket down one more time, and it swings past him, it swings past him, and finally, you're afraid he's not going to grab it, and finally, he grabs a hold of it, and he holds on with one hand.....and it pulls him inside the helicopter, and you are so relieved. They've had like 3 ads- during this whole thing, so that you'll hang on, you know, and watch the rest of the show, but, (sigh), you can almost hear America going (deep sigh), you hear the sound coming in your windows from outside, all the people that are breathing relief. Now the reason I tell you that story is this. How many of you think that that guy when he was let down in the scuba outfit, and he was saving and rescuing those people from death so they wouldn't perish, how many of you think

that he, as he held on to the boat looked at it and goes, wow, this is a great trim job, man, this is, this boat's worth a lot. Oh, I like boats like this, "hey, you can go ahead and leave me!", How many of you think he did that. You say, don't be silly. Now think about it. It may have been worth a million dollars, that boat. But why, think carefully, did the coast guard guy not want to stay on the boat, why did he not love the boat, why did he not want to hold on to that boat? Because he knew a simple fact, and what was that? It was going down.

Now, Christians come to this planet, we are sent here by God who knows us before the foundation of the world. We are birthed into this planet, the purpose of which is to grow and to share Christ to take as many hostages from this planet, as many drowning people as possible with us to go to a better place, and a lot of us are like holding on, and suddenly we start clinging to this world, and we just love this world, and we don't want to let go, we just love the things of this world so much, and you know what? We're holding on to a boat that's going down. Are you all thinking? Think about this. The passions and the pleasures of this world, where we spend our money, it's as if we're going to be here forever...we're not! 2nd Peter 3:8-11 say that the things of this world, this world will all be elements, perish. The word 'element' there indicates the smallest, like the atom, they'll all split.. .shoom.. .it's going to be gone. Why invest in a boat that's going down? Why cling to a boat that's going down? God has somewhere better, He is rescuing us, and he has us rescuing others to take them to a far better place. And we often forget what our priorities are, we don't have our perspective in balance. Just remember that about the Coast Guard, that may help as we think these things through. Let's go ahead, and I'm going to show you something too, before you go to point #1, it's a sub point. There's a brother in this Church who was in a band for years, and not, and just recently, some of the band members were choosing music, and one of the band members, who was the leader, decided to do a song by a group called Godsmack. And this brother said look, "Look, we've been playing music for years, but, I think we're going the wrong direction, I don't want to play a song by Godsmack," and they said, "come on, man, we're going to do it," and he says, "Look, I will not play a song by a group that insults my God, any more than I would play a song about your wife that insults your wife." Think about it, I mean, I hold God dear, so I'm not going to play music that insults him, well, they went on back and forth and finally they said, well then let me just tell you man, you're not part of this group, you don't belong in this group, and he says, "You know what? Listening to you all talk about my God the way you are, you're right.." And for years he had been in this group, his best friends were in this group, but what happened is

that basically at the end of the conversation, they said, “Man, we don’t know where-you’re coming from, you are alien to us.” He said, “You know what? You’re right. We’re from 2 different worlds.” And when they said ‘you’re alien to us’, it’s like in this passage, there are going to be times when the world is going to look at you and say, ‘you know what? You’re different from us’.. .and either they may change their lives because they see that you’re different, or they may say, “you don’t fit in.” And at that moment in time, you can either compromise the gospel of Jesus Christ and who He is, or you can say, ‘you know what? You’re right...I am different. And I’m standing right here on the promises of God. I’m not going to do what you say to do.’ And at that moment you may feel like an alien literally sticking out like a sore thumb, but you know what? God will bless you at that moment. You know why? Because he blesses those who are proud of Him, who are loyal to him, In fact, we’re going to see a verse in just a second that deals that how, we being loyal to God, will be blessed. #1. We’re going to find from I Peter, how we can have successful lives that are balanced by practicing these 2 points. First of all, would you fill in #1? It’s a sub-point, we need to be aware that we’re being watched. Be aware that we’re being watched. This is very important. Would you read that first verse with me? I Peter 1:12: Those things reported unto you by them, that have preached the Gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven: which things the angels STOOP TO INVESTIGATE. Would you read those last 3 words with me one more time? “Stoop to investigate.”

The Bible uses very interesting words here, about what the angels are doing every day with you and me. They’re stooping to investigate. Now, the verb that is chosen there, ‘investigate’ is just like you would think in life. They study what you and I are doing. It’s like a classroom, and they’re watching what you and I are doing. Millions of them are stooping to investigate you and me. Now, I want you to think about this just for a second. You and I both know we act differently when people are watching, right? OK, now, just think of it for a second, OK, let me put it this way.. .you come home from work, you open the refrigerator, you pull out the cold chicken which has the plastic saran wrap on the top, but it’s on the plate...half of 2t~ it’s missing from dinner the night before, and you put it out on the counter, and you also go ahead and grab maybe a piece of cake that’s left in there. You put it on the counter, you click on the TV, because you’re about to go do something, and while you’re watching TV, you’re reaching over, and you’re ripping off chunks of that chicken. No silverware, nothing. You’re ripping off chunks of chicken, and you’re nibbling on it, chewing on it while you kind of go ahead and stick your finger in that cake and take a couple of bites, right? And as the oil drips down, maybe a little on your chin, with the chicken,

you do this. OK, maybe I do, maybe you all don't, but I mean, try to relate to me here for a second, OK, that's possible that that could happen, alright? Now, when you do this.. .really, you wouldn't do it that way, you wouldn't eat that chicken that way, if you had people over, would you? Just say 'no'. You're like, we're going to mess with his head, we're not going to tell him what we do.. OK You probably wouldn't.....OK, if Billy Graham was coming over for dinner, and the governor, and it was-just you and your wife, and those two men, would you probably eat that way? You wouldn't do that. Would you? Why? Because people would be watching, right? Are you with me? We act differently if there's- an audience. Well, what's interesting about this passage is God is saying, what? Are you kidding me? When you open that book, when you open that magazine, gentlemen...there's a crowd watching you~ You've got witnesses. When you go on the internet and you pull up those sites, what are you kidding me? When you do that act, what are you kidding me? You've got an audience. You're being watched. And we as believers many times live our lives as if we're not being watched, as if that moment, we think we're alone, we're alone, we're not alone. That was a movie line once. We're not alone. They were righter than they knew. We're not, look at the next verse.. .By the way, let me just tell you something cool. I get into things like this. Do you see the words stoop to investigate there? The reason I capitalize them is in the book of Luke Chapter 24 verse 12, is the other place that those 3 words, that those words are used. Now I find it neat because, actually, it talks about the angels are stooping, that means they are really into looking at what's going on. The other place that those words are used, and it's the only other place in the Bible that they're used exactly that way, is in a story about a crucifixion, after the crucifixion, there was a burial, and after the burial, there was a resurrection. And a couple of disciples ran to the tomb, and one of them stopped, and the verb is stooped to investigate the tomb. Do you remember that story? It was John and Peter.. In the book of Luke, Chapter 24, it was Peter that stooped to investigate---the very same Simon Peter, interestingly enough, that just wrote- this book about the angels stooping to investigate, so the guy who stooped to investigate to see where the angels had been is the one that wrote the story about the angels who stoop now to look where he's been. And where we've- been. And what we're doing. That's pretty sobering isn't it? What if, what if you watch the news, they said, "Now, and your name is Jane Doe. And now, at 11:00 tonight, a 4-hour report live video on everything Jane Doe has done for the last 3 months in private, alone and in her thoughts. You'd tune into that baby, wouldn't you? You'd say, what do they know? You guys are staring at me like...it's really quiet in here. It's pretty awesome, though isn't it? Ok, let me just say this to you. No, let's read Ephesians

3:10. Let's read it together.. .(laugh) 'we're not talking to you man, we're mad at you'. OK, let's read Ephesians 3:10 together, Ok. But that is, I've got to tell you that's very humbling, when I read these passages, I go, " oh my goodness!" every single moment of our lives is being watched, I mean it is a crowd. Look at Ephesians 3:10. Read it with me.

To the intent that now under the principalities and powers in Heavenly places, might be known by the Church, the manifold wisdom of God Do you know what the intention of them stooping to watch us is? Because they're in awe, still, after millennia, of the awesome wisdom of their God, and by watching what he does with Christians, the angels are going, "WOW! Did you see what God just did with the church? Man, that's incredible." The principalities and powers are statements that deal with the authority levels in heaven. Like Generals and Colonels and Lieutenants, that's why principalities and powers are separate words, these deal with the angelic host. And those angels are going, "WOW Look at the wisdom of God, what he does with the church." Now, I want you to look at one more verse here. This one is really the clincher for me on how we live our lives, even in private. II Chronicles 16:9. Read with me please. For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong, to help in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect loyal to Him. His eyes run to and fro and he's watching, He's looking. Now, what he's looking for is Christians who are going to be loyal and faithful to Him, because He wants to bless them. He'll notice those that are not being loyal, but he notices those who are. The Lord is watching, the angels are watching, and you know, you know, you might be thinking, wow, I kind of resent that thought. But Let me share something with you. Remember when you were kids, and you were in the swimming pool? I was raised in Texas here. We'd go down to Alamo Heights pool. And at Alamo heights pool there would be lifeguards. Now, I'd go with my buddies, and we'd do things like stepping on each other's heads and everything else and trying to drown each other...remember those good old days, those fun days? You're like, you know, pushing your buddies down and we would be wrestling and stuff and (whistle) all the sudden you hear the, you hear the whistle. And there the lifeguard is going, hey, hey boys, boys, stop that, or I'm going to kick you out. (whining) So you all go ahead and you kind of sit back and then after a few minutes, you start getting rowdy again, and before you know it, you're shoving each other down under the water, and jumping on each other, and kicking each. other, and drowning each other, you know what I mean? You're having fun. And then the (whistle-, here- comes the whistle again, the lifeguard, "I told you boys- stop. Get out... .15 minutes." (mumbling, whining) and you're like this tall, and you're out for 15 minutes, and you come back

in. When you, when you're a child, you can't stand that lifeguard, can you? 'He's a spoil sport.' Now, you're 55 years old, and you're swimming out in the ocean, and all of a sudden the current starts pulling you down and you're like (gulp, gulp) and you're waving your arms, and you look off in the distance, and here the lifeguard jumps down, grabs one of those things, starts running toward you on the beach and begins to dive in towards you. Do you hate lifeguards now, or do you love lifeguards? See, when you were a kid, you hated them because they were watching, but when you're older, you love them because they're watching. Now, think about it. The difference between resenting God watching us or loving God watching us, it exclusively based on the level of our maturity. How old we are in Christ. Because, if we're immature, we resent Him, because we think He's a spoil sport, but when we're mature enough to realize what He is there for, because he loves us, to bless us, to protect us.. .when we're older, we love the fact the lifeguard is there.. .isn't it funny? Same lifeguard. It's us that has changed. Are you all with me? And as we grow in grace and knowledge and mature, rather than resenting the fact that he is watching us and ever with us, we praise God eventually that He is watching us and ever with us, because as we grow in him, we know that that's the only way we've survived. He's not the enemy like when we thought, we were kids, and we thought the lifeguard was the enemy. He obviously is our friend, he does love us.

The next point is this we need to be alert.. We need to be alert.. And when it comes to being aware that we're being watched.. I think maybe- I can just share- a story with you that will help you remember this point. There were two little boys, they were 8 and 10 years old. They were always getting in trouble, they would go into the store, and stuff would disappear from the store, and the parents would find it stuffed under their bed. They started getting very concerned about these 2 little boys of theirs. Tommy and Willy. Mom and Dad said, what are we going to do? They may be in jail some day if we don't do something about their behavior, something is always disappearing, they're ripping stuff off all the time. The father says, I know what we can do. There's this old fire and brimstone preacher down the street, and this old Fire and Brimstone preacher, you know I heard that he can really sober a kid up, and, why don't we send them down there to talk to the preacher, and the wife agreed, so, they went ahead and called the preacher, and he made the appointment, and at the time of the appointment, they sent down Tommy, the youngest one. He ran down the street 4 blocks, ran into the preacher's office, sat down. Preacher didn't say anything at first, he just sat there looking at Tommy. Tommy's a little nervous. The preacher wanting Tommy to know that God was always present, that he was everywhere, he wanted to make

his point, so he, he just sits there, and he finally looks up and he goes, "Tommy. Young man. Where's God?" The boy just looked at him. And he wants to make the point again, he wants this boy to know that God is always around, he goes "Young man, I asked you a question. Where's God?" and Tommy's like.. ..."I'm asking you boy, now if you don't hear me this time, you're in trouble. I'm asking you son, listen- to the question. WHERE'S God?" The boy gets up, and he runs out the door, and he runs down the street, 4 blocks- to his house, goes in the front door, goes up the stairs, goes inside the closet, and he puts clothes on top of him after slamming the door of the closet. Well, his brother, Willie, heard him coming in. His brother Willie looks frantically all over the place for him. Finally opens the closet door, there's little Tommy hiding under the clothes just shaking. He goes, "What's wrong; Tommy? How did that meeting with that preacher go?" And Tommy's just like shaking there, he goes, "Oh, Man, we're in trouble" His brother says, "why, why, why, what happened?" He goes, "Oh, Man. I gotta tell you. Oh, apparently, God is missing, and everybody thinks we did it!" The point is, when he said 'Where is God', he didn't think he was ripped off, when he said 'Where is God', the point was, He's everywhere, He's watching, He's aware. And it does change our lifestyle, doesn't it, when we are being watched? Especially when we're aware we're being watched. It makes us think and act and do things totally in a different manner. Hopefully, we'll remember that. Next of all, we need to be aware.. .I mean, alert. #2, ladies and gentlemen, we've got to be alert that the enemy is on the prowl, trying to destroy us, we need to study, this is how to become alert, study, pray. You have got to keep ahead of the devil and his tactics. Memorize God's word, like somebody once said, everybody has a photographic memory, but sometimes we just don't have any film, but we have got to memorize God's word, would you read that verse with me? Very short verse under #2. Wherefore gird up prepare, the loins -- of what?--your mind. That's the battleground, folks, haven't you figured it out? That's why the media is so powerful, that's why books, magazines are so powerful . Your mind is- where Satan does the battling with you. Your spirit gets attacked and quenched many times through your thoughts. So, make sure your mind is preoccupied with righteousness, with holiness, with the-Word of God. Study, Pray, Meditate, Fast, do those things which arm and gird your mind. The word girdle there is not like the modern use. Girdle there is- the thing that held all the armor on, it's the one belt that held it all together. Can you imagine a guy going out to battle, but he forgot his girdle, his, his, his belt? He's walking there and pieces of armor are falling off all

over the place until he's just standing there in his shorts and a t-shirt. And the enemy's charging over the hill, what do you think, he's going to go, "Whoa, whoa, whoa. Just a second forgot my girdle, be right back." They're going to kill him. He's unprotected. The Bible says, 'Gird up', that means pull the armor together every single day. Now, when you put your seat belt on, how many of you put it on because you know you're going to have an accident, vs. you put it on in case there's an accident. Now, if you don't put your seat belt on, and one day, you hit something, and you go through the windshield, and you're pressed up against a wall somewhere, you go.. "hey, hey baby. Let's put on our seat belt, what do you say?" It's too late. It's too late! The Bible is saying, 'Gird yourself, not because you're going to have an accident that day or have a battle, but in case you do, you're ready. So you don't go through the windshield. Are you all with me? Every day, it's a joy just to have fellowship with the Lord anyway, even if you're not going to go through a trauma. Be ready in case you do, but the chances are, it'll just be a sweet moment with the Lord. Gird up, put your seatbelt on, spiritually. In other words, keep moving forward, because I've got to tell you Even if you're on the right track in life, if you're standing still, you'll be hit by the next train, you've got to be moving, going somewhere with God. OK, next point. It's #3. We need to be focused. Now, as we talk about these things, you're going to say, 'Pete, that takes effort. It takes effort.' But I will tell you something. I'm hoping that you're learning, even as, as we're being humorous and having some fun here. My purpose in teaching, and us getting together here is to learn. I want to do anything I possibly can to help you all remember. But these are things which we have to make as lifestyles if we're going to be balanced believers with power. Remember the story about the wife, and the husband go to the doctor. Walk into the doctor, they sit in the front room, and he says 'Come on in', He checks the man, he asks the man to leave the room. He says, 'Please go out in the lobby'. Closing the door. The doctor turns to the wife and says, 'I've got some bad news. I think your husband's going to die.' She goes, "Oh, no. He's going to die?" he goes, "Yeah." She goes, "Oh, what can I do?" He goes, "Actually, there is something you can do." She goes, "Really?" He goes, "Yeah. But this is what you're going to have to do for the next 10 years. Every single morning, you have to get up 2 hours earlier, you're going to have to go and make a gourmet breakfast for your husband, you're going to have to come into his room, you're going to have to feed him breakfast in bed, as you feed him breakfast in bed, you're going to have to rub his feet for 2 hours, rub his shoulders for 2 hours, rub his hands for 2 hours. Then go make him lunch and bring it to him in bed, and you're going to have to just rub him down~ You're going to have to press his head against your chest

and just, against your neck, and just love on him, and talk to him and kind of sing to him, and then at dinner time, you have to bring him a gourmet dinner, and then you have to rub down his feet, and you have to- sing songs to him and read books to him and whatever makes him happy, and for the next 10 years, after you do that, he may live. She goes, "Oh, Ok." So she goes back out and she gets her husband and they're in the lobby, and they go down to the car, and they're in the car driving, and she's driving along, he's kind of nervous, and he goes, well, "what did the doctor say, what did the doctor say?" She looks at him, and she goes, "he said, you're going to die." See, it wasn't worth the effort for her. I hope nobody here would do that, but the Investment, the effort is not just for the Lord, we're not just making the effort for the Lord. The blessing comes to us. When you invest and make an effort in the kingdom of God and studying God's Word and being alert, and being aware, studying and preparing, ladies and gentlemen, We receive the blessing. And we have to remember that we're here to be obedient to God, but just for the Lord, but we also get blessed in the mean time. That's what obedience to the Word of God is all about. When it says "be focused" ladies and gentlemen, God says you've got to be serious about your faith. Set goals. Set goals. In your marriage, set goals. In your walk with Jesus, set goals. In your prayer life, set goals. Have a goal every day to pray for 5 minutes. 5 minutes in reading the Word every single day, and then some day, you'll set the goal for 10 minutes, then someday you'll set the goal for 15 minutes, but be focused. Remember Simon Peter, what was he like? He pulls out a sword, one day whacks off the ear of a servant saying I'm willing to die for Jesus, and a few hours later he's denying Christ in the- courtyard, remember that? Peter was all over the map. And God had to train Peter to quit being so dispersive and focus on his calling. That's why he named him from Simeon, which in Aramaic means "volatile one" to Petros, which in Greek means "rock", "Little- rock". He changed him from being dispersive all over the map to being focused, solid, and that's what God wants of you and me. He wants us to be focused, sober. What do you believe? Why do you believe what you believe, and what are you doing with it? Focus. Think about it. Trim it down in your life. And if you say, I haven't even thought about what the Lord wants me to do, then we obviously are too preoccupied with the things of this world. You know, you may be goal oriented that you walk to get your blood, you know, every minute, that you have so many beats per minute, or maybe you're walking to lose weight, or you're walking to get healthy. These are goals that you're setting. Maybe you're walking to get in shape. Maybe that's what your exercise is. You have a goal to get in shape. Getting in shape is great. I'm in shape. Like [say, round is a shape. Anyway, but you've got to. . .whatever your goal is, you

know, whatever your goal is, the Bible says, get focused, get directed in it and accomplish it. Don't quit halfway through, like we said before. Accomplish whatever God has given you, because I think as believers we're too dispersive.

We're all over the place sometimes. Last point, #4. Then after saying all these things, you need to be aware, you need to be alert, you need to be focused, he says, you need to be hopeful. Look toward...forward to the end result of victory. Ladies and Gentlemen, Jesus is going to return, there's no two ways about it. Jesus, in case we go to be with him first, saves those who have confessed him as Lord and Savior. There is a future which is awesome for every one of us that know Christ, Amen? We should be looking forward to that moment too. That's something to give us hope and to give us joy.

That is exciting. This is just a limited engagement on this planet. Once somebody said to me, "Pete, but you know, if we have to be alert, and be aware, and be focused, you know, it's no fun to be a Christian." I said, "Are you kidding me?" He said, "How can I have hope and joy if I'm always being alert and focused." I said, "Look at it this way." I said, "I, I go to pick up..." I used to go to pick up my daughter, that would fly in from Ft. Worth every once in a while from college. We love our daughter, we looked forward to seeing her. Now, we had to do something. #1, we had to be aware that if we drove to the airport, we could have an accident. We knew that we were being watched, we could get a ticket if we didn't drive the speed limit, so we were aware. And next we were alert. We knew that we could be hit by other cars if we were careless, and #3, we focused to be there on time, and I said to him, "Now, we have to do awareness, alertness, and focus going to pick up our daughter, but does that, in any way, shape or form deplete the amount of joy we had when we saw her?" He goes, "Well, I guess not." And I said, "let me just tell you, if you're being aware, if you're being alert, if you're being focused as a Christian, if you're living a life like Christ wants you to be, not only are you not going to have less joy, you'll have more, you know why? Because you'll be in God's will, and He'll be blessing you. He will be blessing your life. You will even have more joy, you know why? Because if you don't get 5 tickets on the way to pick up your daughter, you'll probably be happier, right? Because you'll, be aware and alert, and you did what was right. But if you got 5 tickets on the way to pick up your daughter, by then, all you're thinking about is those stupid tickets, and so you're not enjoying your daughter as much. Want to have more hope in life? Follow God's rules for life, and you will have hope, you will have joy. Putting the seatbelt on doesn't spoil the trip, it blesses the trip. If somebody was to take you to one of these bungee jumps, have you seen these things at like six flags and stuff, it's like a 40, 50 story drop. It's supposed to be fun, you hit the bottom, and then you

spring back up or something like that, or they start you at the bottom, and they go, “bing”, and they shoot you up, have you seen these things? Totally psychotic. It’s unbalanced, there’s something unnatural about this whole thing, and everybody laughs now. What if the guy who fastens you into this bungee belt or whatever, he’s at the top~ and he’s saying to his other buddy, “Hey, are we supposed to pop this in here or pop this one in here, huh? OK, go, push. And he pushes you, and you’re not even popped in. Will you “A”, be happy, or”:B “freaked out? Freaked out. Why? Because he wasn’t alert, aware, and’ focused. In other words, what will make that jump more fun is if you’re together when you go. And you want to have more joy and fun in life, be together with God as you go, and then you’ll celebrate life. See, Christianity doesn’t make life rotten, Christianity makes it awesome if you’re following Christ. Do you all follow that? It’s a misnomer the way the world has said Christianity is a bummer. I will tell you, I lived in the world, and I developed nightclubs and did all kinds of things before I met Jesus, and Satan can’t touch Jesus when it comes to awesome. He cannot touch him. He cannot even touch him.

The revolution of the gospel of Christ is liberty, man. Satan is bondage. So, as we look at these points, as we close out on that last point, let me just encourage you in this, next week, we’re going to talk about living a legacy. How our lives literally are a legacy. But first of all, let me go ahead, and let’s look over these points real quickly before we pray, because I want us to remember these These are critical to be balanced. First of all, do we have our identity in balance? Are we more like the world than like Jesus Christ? Then’ it’s time to get balanced on who we are. Second of all, do we have our perspectives in balance? Are we so attached to this world that we freak out about everything, or do we remember we’re just here for a visit? And those points on how to live successfully, with this balance and identity are these 4 points. Let’s remember; Are we, #1 aware that we’re being watched? Think about that today. When you walk out of here, and you think you’re alone in a room, you’re not. That’s good news or bad news, depending upon what you’re doing, I guess. We’re being watched, be aware. #2 Be alert that the enemy’s on the prowl. Get into the Word, study, pray. #3 Be focused. Set some goals in your relationship with God, that’s where you’ll get your power and your joy. #4 Be hopeful, because the victory has already been guaranteed. And how do we keep all of this in perspective with joy? Is, all we have to do is remember: We’re visitors just simply stopping over on this planet to collect as many souls as possible to take with us to a place that’s far better, amen?