

Revelation 6, 7 (Conrad Bowman) (April 27, 2008)

Alright, we're in chapter 7, uh 6. Excuse me. Chapter 6 of Revelation, this morning. I really enjoyed that last chapter. I should have. I did it three times I think. And it, but its just an exceptional chapter. Did you remember that William R. Newell recommended that you read chapter 4 and 5 repeatedly through and through as a unit, because they go together. And so chapter 4 and 5 are – you'll get a different perspective if you just read them as a unit; and let it kind of flow into you. We've covered them in detail, but that's something that you want to pay attention to. John was just talking to me a few minutes ago. We're a little behind on getting the transcripts out to you. For those of you who are not aware, John does – he takes this tape that we get on a small machine here and he takes it and gives us a transcript of it, verbatim. Then he sends it to me to correct my nonsense; and then as soon as that's done, we send them out. So you've got it in written form, edited a little bit. You've got it in sound-bite form exactly, and we can send that over the internet through your email if you want. And then beyond that, I'm working on a commentary, a verse by verse commentary, and as we approach probably the three-quarter mark, I'll finish that verse by verse and we'll have it almost in book form – manuscript form. So, that should enhance the learning process and give you a good record on what we're studying in here.

Now in chapter 6, we're moving on in John's vision that started in chapter 5 and now we're continuing with it.

1. And I saw when the Lamb ...

You remember, that's the vision of the Lamb who's standing in the midst of the elders – a lamb as if it were slain – had it's throat cut. And I saw the Lamb break one of the seven seals ...

1... And the seven seals are on the scroll that He took from the hand of the one sitting on the throne. And I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come" [or come up here].

2. And I looked, and behold, there's a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

And the crown indicates a strength – masterous (sp). *Dunamiss* is the word. It's a crown of rule. Not just reigning over but rule over. The white horse is a symbol of conquest, and the strength of...

2... he who sat on it had a bow and a crown was given to him,
and he went out conquering and to conquer

[Interruption – Someone left lights on in car]

Lady. What did you say his name was?

Conrad Bowman. The white horse is conquest. His conquest. Ok. Its military might.

3. And when He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come up here." [come see].

4. And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to the rider of that horse.

So the red horse is a red horse of battle and slaughter.

5. And when He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come up here;" [or come see] and I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

6. And I heard something like a voice from the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

And this is the third seal. The third seal represents famine, because the price of wheat, the price of wheat has shot up through the roof. A lot discussion of that last week. Hasn't it? The price of wheat and rice – who was it – rationed rice? Walmart? Sam's. Sam's and Cosco have rationed rice. You can only get so many bags – 20 pound bags of rice because they're anticipating hording in this country of rice and commodities.

Betijean Kennerly. The price has almost tripled.

Conrad Bowman. Yes. Its gone up very high. Remember that our fertilizers come from, I believe, come from a petroleum base. When oil goes up ...

Betijean Kennerly. Plastics do too.

Conrad Bowman. It all goes up. Yes. You have plastics.

7. I looked and behold, He broke the fourth seal ...

This is an interesting, this is an interesting admonition – do not harm the oil and the wine. We're going to come back to that- there was a – Dyer wrote a whole book on that – on that very subject. The effect its going to have on petroleum and on food products as we see disruption in the Middle East. It's a good book. I'll bring it next week. Next,

7. He broke the fourth seal, and I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

8. And I looked, and behold, an ashen horse [or a pale horse]; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him, and authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

9. And when the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

And that word "maintained" is significant because it's a word that means they maintained under duress, or they maintained with perseverance.

10. They cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, how long will Thou refrain [hold yourself back] from judging and avenging our blood on those who still yet dwell on the earth?"

11. And there was given to each of them a white robe;

And the white robe signifies – righteousness. Righteousness. Ok. Because we're clothed in the righteousness of Christ;

11.... And to each one of them was given a white robe and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer [be patient], until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been killed, should be completed also.

So their patience is so that the total number of those who are going to be killed for the cause of their testimony during this period is completed. When its completed, then the implication of that verse is that God will move in terms of His vengeance and judgment on those who did the killing – and did the persecution.

12. I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

So those two things indicate that there are massive eruptions – volcanic eruptions associated with the great earthquake that filled the air with ash and blackened the sun

13. The stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

You have a fig tree in your back yard?

Evelyn Wamble. Not now.

Conrad Bowman. I do.

Evelyn Wamble. Used to.

Conrad Bowman. Yeah, that's the first thing I plant when I move in. Plant a fig tree. You got a fig tree. The leaves come out – real earth – with its first warmth that we've had – leaves pop out, and the new growth starts on the end of all these limbs, and the new buds start, because figs will not grow on last years growth. They only grow on this years growth. So new growth starts to sprout. And everywhere – everywhere, there's a juncture, and there's a leaf that comes out on that new growth, you can watch and bet on it – there'll be a fig right there

in that juncture. It'll pop up, but it follows the leaves. Ok. They don't come before You've got to get that new growth, and then you'll get that fig right in there. Now that says something to us. Fruit comes from new growth. Ok. That speaks of new creation life. It speaks of the life of Christ energizing the tree which is Christendom at large. And that's where you get fruit from. You don't get it off of last year's growth, you get it off this year's. Now that's not saying that old believers stuck in the Church don't produce anything. That's not the point. The point is, the old growth is Israel, and the root was the Lord Jesus Christ. Ok. And the old growth was on Israel. But the fruit comes from the new growth which is new creation life. That's the resurrected ascended Christ where He is now, powering the root, which is where it is now, on earth. And that's you, and me. And in this context here, its after God's dealings with the Church have being completed and He's dealing with the remnant out of Israel giving testimony on the earth under severe persecution. They're holding up – Ok – this will be the 144,000 and those that accepted their testimony, and we'll get to that in another couple of chapters. So, questions?

Alright, I'll continue until the end of this chapter and then things are going to start clearing up as it folds back on itself, and we'll just let it do what its going to do.

8. So I looked, and behold, an ashen horse [in verse 8] he who sat on the pale horse had the name Death; and Hades was following with him, and authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

9. And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, because of the testimony which they had maintained;

See, they had persevered right to the end of their life and ...

10. And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, how long will Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who still yet dwell on the earth?"

11. And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest and be patient for a little while

longer while the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been killed, should be completed also.

12. And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood [was barely shining through];

13. And the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

14. And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15. And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

16. and they said [or they kept on saying is what this is – present tense, lineal action], they kept on saying to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

17. for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand [or withstand it]?"

So this is the day of wrath of the Lamb. These people who have lasted until that time find themselves the recipients of the wrath of God, or the wrath of the Lamb that was slain.

[Chapter 7]

1. After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, and they're holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind should blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

2. And there was another angel ascending from the rising of the sun of the east, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out

with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

3. saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the [the *doulos*] bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

Now your forehead is where your conscious brain is situated. Where your operational brain is situated.

4. I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

5. from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,

6. from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,

7. from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,

8. from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

Now it names those specifically. And I went through that deliberately just to impress upon you that Scripture is being very specific here. So I believe that its literally twelve thousand? Absolutely. I don't see any reason whatsoever to make something spiritual out of that. I believe that there are twelve thousand from every one of the Tribes of Israel that are sealed in their forehead. Now what that means is, here's where you decide things. They're sealed in terms of their decision making – they're sealed against deception. Now we're going to hear later that unless the days were shortened that they had to endure this, even the elect themselves by the Anti-Christ. We do not want to undervalue or underestimate the power and the work of Satan in the world. He is the power of the prince of the air, and this is his domain, and he has enormous power. It disturbs me when I see teenagers wearing T-shirts that say, "let's kick Satan's butt." That disturbs me, not because of the language, but because of the concept.

When Satan faced Christ personally in the temptations of the Lord, and he tempted our Lord, Jesus Himself did not take authority over Satan. He referred him to what had been written in the Word of the Father. "As it was written," were the first words out of His mouth. Ok. He depended – now this was the Only Begotten Son of God – He depended on what the Father had delivered of His Word in written form through the Old Testament prophets. And that was the answer He gave when Satan tempted Him. And you remember what the temptations included? Satan took the Lord Jesus to a high mountain, and said I want you to look at all the nations of the world. Look at them. And you know I've got a hold on all those people. There are billions – billions who will follow me straight into perdition. If you will acknowledge me, acknowledge me, give me honor, I'll release my hold on every one of them just to have you acknowledge me. Now I want you to think about that. Most of Christendom believes that Christ came specifically to deliver all those lost people from perdition and redeem them as saved. He did not do that. He came to satisfy the demands of a righteous Father who had declared that the wages of sin is death. And somebody had to die. Were not one saved, the Lord Jesus would have done exactly what He did in order to satisfy the demands of His righteous and perfect Father. He did that, and we are incidentally the beneficiaries of that. He did that to satisfy His Father. His Father now was free to love the creation that He had decreed with an infinite amount of love, and He poured that out to us through the Son – the only way we could receive it. The Only Begotten Son of God came to earth, incarnate and flesh, took on sinful flesh. Took on flesh, incapable of sin Himself, without an old sin nature – without an Adamic nature, because He didn't have an Adamic father. His Father was God. He was fully human through His mother. He's fully God through His Father. He delivered all that God wanted us to have through His human self that went to the cross and suffered and died on our behalf, so that we wouldn't have to. Ok. Now all of that emphasizes that Christ Himself never undervalued the power and position of His arch enemy, the enemy of God, Lucifer, the son of the morning, Satan himself, embodied in the Anti-Christ. He took him seriously. And He answered him with the strongest answer He could have possibly given. "Thus it is written." And He quoted to him out of the Old Testament Scripture the words of His Father. Isn't that the pattern we should be following? I don't ever want to catch myself believing that I'm wrestling with – that I'm wrestling with Satan over any issue in my life. That battle has been fought and won by the Son of God based on the words of His Father. So He refers the enemy of God back to the words of the Father in order to read his defeat which has been there since before the foundation of the world. Ok. Now that would keep our perspective straight. It will. It'll keep us from walking out on the end of the plank, and arrogantly,

arrogantly opposing – say flee, flee temptation, is what we're told. Resist the devil, is what we're told. Ok. But don't ever forget who he is and what it takes to defeat him. It takes the power of the Father expressed through the Son revealed to us, in our minds and hearts, through the Spirit. Now, we're seeing this power unleashed as these seals on the scroll are taken off. In verse 12 (chapter 6)

12. I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

13. And the stars of the sky fell to the earth [so there's disruptions in heaven and on the earth], as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

14. The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

So there's massive disruptions of the tectonic plates – the plates on the earth.

15. And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

16. and they kept on saying [I've got that asterisk right there in my New American Standard that tells me this is a continuing present tense] they kept on saying to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

17. for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Now the next chapter, chapter 7, compares Zechariah, chapter 6 – we'll go to Zechariah after we read through these events in chapter 7. Are there any questions on chapter 6, so far? You'll get another chance. Phil?

Phil Richman. There's a question on the sixth seal. That sound a lot like an asteroid hitting the earth and – a lot of stuff about that, you know, even in the media today. Just wondering if you had a comment on that. Also, now this is part of the Tribulation ...

Conrad Bowman. Yes sir.

Phil Richman. When did the Tribulation specifically begin? It sounds like it almost begins in 12, although we look back in earlier parts of 6 it does look ... [inaudible]. Are we talking – in chapter 6, in your opinion, are these Christians – the souls of them who have been slain? Are they Jews who are left on the earth after the Rapture? Who are we talking about here?

Conrad Bowman. Well, John's whole approach to this thing so far has been Jewish in its context, and I think it still is. I think he's still addressing Jews in its context. And I believe he's addressing Jews – starting with this period here. His vision includes Israel approaching the Gospel. The Gospel of Christ. There are two aspects to the cross. One is the aspect to the Church, which is still yet future to the cross, because the Church didn't start until Pentecost. Ok. So the application that we make of the cross and the Church, has to be made forward looking. Or from our perspective, backward looking. John is talking specifically to a Jewish remnant, because he's still talking about 144,000 saved out of Israel – he's still talking about the fulfillment of all that God had promised to Israel.

Phil Richman. So, his context is Israel?

Conrad Bowman. Context is Israel.

Phil Richman. No Christians left here. No Christians being made here.

Conrad Bowman. None here. There's none here. We're not talking about the Christians in terms of the Church yet. We're not talking about that. What we're talking about is saved out of Israel. Saved under Israel's Gospel. So, what John is seeing is – John is about 100 A.D. So he's at the end of the first century, and he's looking back on the work of Paul and the condition of the Church and the 70 A.D. destruction of Jerusalem, and he's seeing persecution and famine and everything begin in this period and continue to intensify until Jerusalem is overrun and totally destroyed in 70 A.D. Now ...

Phil Richman. What I refer, looking back now ...

Conrad Bowman. Yes.

Phil Richman. ... these souls, these persecuted souls.

Conrad Bowman. That's right. Now, according to Christ Himself – Jesus said, "this generation will not pass away" – and He said that at the end of Matthew. He said, "this generation will not pass away until they see the Son of Man in His glory." So, when he references this generation he's talking about Jews that are alive on the persecution in this day, and then we see after the Church is taken out because Christ Himself will return for the Church; the dead in Christ will arrive first, we who are alive will be caught up together with Him in the clouds so shall we will be with the Lord," and then after that, a peace treaty is signed with the Anti-Christ and the seven years of the Tribulation can start; and they last; and at the end of that time, Christ comes again, this time in glory, and delivers the remnant of Israel from being completely annihilated – that's the battle of Armageddon – the first one will be fought there; and the remnant that are alive at that time will go into the Millennial Reign. They'll go into the one thousand year reign. The 144,000 are sealed right here, against deception; and they are God's witnesses for this seven year period until He returns again.

Phil Richman. That 144,000 then, is in the period of the Tribulation ...

Conrad Bowman. Absolutely.

Phil Richman. I guess its God's issue to, or God's problem, to discern how many ... [inaudible] ... who is from those various tribes because there's been tremendous intermarriage. They don't know their own lineage.

Conrad Bowman. Sure.

Phil Richman. [Inaudible]. That type of thing ... [inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. As far as we know. Totally muddled. Only God Himself would know how to sort that out. But, I see no reason not to take that literally. I mean, a lot of people will look at that and see a lot – enough reason in there to say, this can't possibly be literal, because its no way we can track those people. I'm saying, and I'm looking at it, and I don't see any reason not to take it literally. So,

Lady. DNA, and all of that.

Conrad Bowman. If I'm going to fall off on one side, I'm going to fall off on the side of literacy. You know.

Phil Richman. DNA, but God knows.

Conrad Bowman. There you go. There you go. I can't argue with that. Alright. Now, this is the way this thing is going to unfold. So, the 144,000 are identified by God and they're marked by the Spirit against deception. Now what that means is, the 144,000 dealing with truth as truth throughout that whole period of time. They witnessing a Gospel that they know to be true, because they can't be deceived by what they see. Now the average person – I don't know what the average person is going to be able to do at that time without the power of the Spirit resident in them. How they can look at a man who can erect a statue – give the statue life, and then give the statue the power of life and death over me. I don't see how men are going to be able to resist that in terms of looking at that and saying, "this is the greatest thing we've seen on earth. This is the greatest power we've ever seen on earth." But that scene, that's a terrifying scene when you think about it in terms of its implications.

Betijean Kennerly. So the Holy Spirit's not there.

Conrad Bowman. The Spirit's not there. The Spirit is resident in the Church.

Evelyn Wamble. The Church has been taken out.

Conrad Bowman. The Church has been taken out. There are not more temples of the Spirit. These – it does not say that the 144,000 are the recipients of the Holy Spirit who takes up residence in their life. That's not what it says. It said their minds were sealed. Ok. Sealed against deception. "Otherwise even the elect themselves would be deceived." And we'll run across those passages as we move along. Things are moving a lot quicker now since we've passed those letters to the seven churches, aren't they?

Class. Yeah.

Conrad Bowman. Yeah. We spent several months just kind of wading through those because they were very, very important to us. There were seven churches in Asia at the time, and they have implications, because they describe the Church in America, the Church worldwide, they describe it to a T today. Laodicea and Philadelphia – they have our name and address all over it, you know, and we need to pay attention to it.

1. After this I saw four angels so we see at the four corners of the earth [They're four angels] and they're holding back four winds of

the earth, so that no wind should blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

2. And there was another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

3. saying, "Do not harm the earth or sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our Lord on their foreheads."

4. And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

And I won't read that again.

9. After these things ...

In verse 9.

9.... I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

Palm branches are branches of peace. The white robes are the white robes of righteousness.

10. They cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

11. And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12. saying, "Amen, [I believe it] blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever – I believe it."

13. And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?"

14. And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15. "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them.

The tabernacle is the tent.

16. "And they shall hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

17. for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

I want to call your attention to the fact that the water of life – you remember when Christ stood in the great courtyard and said, "if any man thirst, let him come to Me, and I'll give him living water, and out of his belly then will gush living water, and he'll never thirst again." That's what Christ offered to Israel. Ok. Now we like to see ourselves in that, but this is what Christ offered to Israel. Now I want you to understand this. The Church is the apple of God's eye. Ephesians 2:10. "You are God's masterpiece, created for the purpose of good works that you should" – and those good works were created beforehand. Before you were created, they were created, that you should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10. It didn't say you should do them. It said those works were created beforehand by God Himself, and your job is to walk in the good works that He has done. He insists on having the glory accrue to Himself. We're not here expected to do great works. We're here expected to walk in God's great works. There's no mistake in who's doing the works and who gets the glory. That's the reason Christ Himself answered Satan's temptations the way He did. Because the glory belongs to the Father. And the Son never, ever, usurped one shred of glory that belongs to the Father. The Spirit never accrues to Himself – not one shred of glory that belongs to the Father; and He gives it to the Father by

acknowledging the Son. Because the Son's going to take all that glory that the Spirit's pushing to Him – He's going to take it and lay it right at the Father's feet. That's a given. That's what happens in heaven when we get there – we receive the Bride's dowry, and the Bride's dowry comes from the work of the Son. That's why our works burn up. We go before the Judgment Seat of Christ and our work goes up in smoke, and there's nothing left but His work. And He takes us naked and uncovered, clothes us in His righteousness, puts the crown of rewards based on our walking in His works on our head as the Bride's dowry. We take that dowry and cast it right at His feet. He takes that dowry given to Him and puts it right in the Father's lap. And then the Father loves us enough to take us into the Family as the Bride of His Son, forever; and makes us the object of adoration by all of creation throughout eternity. We reign with Christ. We don't rule with Christ. Our job is not one of ruling over anything. Our job is reigning with Christ, and receiving the adoration of all of creation because of who we are related to the Son to the Father. I want to stop here because we generally run over and never clear this room for the next class. Yes, a question?

Bill Porter. Its very humbling, very humbling ...

Conrad Bowman. Isn't it?

Bill Porter.... because all my life I was taught that the works were our works.

Conrad Bowman. Not so. I'm absolutely convinced, absolutely convinced, that at the Bema Seat of Christ that what we bring is our best work. We bring our best work and we lay that up there. Whew. Yes sir, and in a puff of smoke, those suckers are gone, and there we are as uncovered as Adam was when he reached for the fig leaf. But then Christ clothes us with His robe of righteousness, and He puts us in His work and rewards us for His work. Yes ma'am?

Julie Green. How do we walk in His works without doing His works? Tell me how you do that?

Conrad Bowman. Uh, practice.

Julie Green. What does that mean?

Conrad Bowman. You know, what it means is this. Rather than getting our brain occupied with organizing a campaign to accomplish something that will impress Him – 1st Thes. 4:11. Paul told the Thessalonians, "make it your ambition to live

a quiet life. Tend to your own business. Work with your own hands so that you won't be in any need and might live at peace with all men." Now that's where it starts. Ok. It starts with a quietness. You almost have to get the Eastern religions to get the sense of quietness its talking about here. But its at the heart of Christianity. Once you get to that quiet place, and you quit struggling to impress God, your eyes begin to see where the Spirit's at work in those people around you that have needs. That have real needs. So you get to Paul's letter to the Galatians and he said: Listen, let every man bear his own load. But you bear one another's overloads. If you see a brother that's fallen, you which are spiritual – chapter 6 – restore such a one in a spirit of meekness. That takes us back to Thessalonians again – lest you also are tempted. And you come along side that brother like a paraclete – a cleat alongside. Tie yourself up right to him, and take on his overload, and bear his overload and fulfill the Law of Christ.

Julie Green. And that's walking in His good works.

Conrad Bowman. That's walking – this is walking in the footsteps of the Spirit. And you put you feet right down where the Spirit is a work, and you just integrate yourself into His work. You see how working with a brother, you pull alongside that brother or sister who's in real difficulty. If you can't do anything but cry with them, get in there and cry with them. If you have resources that will lift them up, apply your resources and lift them up. And more than likely that's emotional resources – that's not financial resources. Lift that brother or lift that sister up. Help them to live a better life. Help them to find more ease in finding rest in Christ. That's what the Christian life is about. It's not busting the doors down and, you know, getting a megaphone and getting everybody's attention – that's what its not about. It's not about that. It's watching where the Spirit's at work in those people around you and then just getting in concert with that; and participating in that. And a lot of times that's only – that's getting in with them and enjoying what God is doing in their life. And rejoicing with them; and strengthening them in their walk and in their life. It's a simple thing. Ok. Yes?

Lady. It's almost like, we'll never know until we get to stand before Him, because if we thought we were actually doing that, pride would set in, and it would be burned up like that.

Conrad Bowman. Yeah. My problem is I'm ...

Lady. We all have that. Look what I'm doing. I'm walking with God. Well, yeah, but there it goes.

Conrad Bowman. Yeah.

Lady. So I don't think we can know ...

Conrad Bowman. Yes. It's a problem.

Lady. But I think we can watch a friend or somebody ...

Conrad Bowman. Absolutely.

Lady. Oh my gosh. You know, there're not even aware ...

Conrad Bowman. Absolutely. I've seen it happen. I can't tell you how many times people have come up to me and said, you remember when you taught so and so and so and so, ten or fifteen years ago? You know, that meant so much to me. Here's what happened in my life after that – so and so. And I'm listening to this, and saying, that's just like God. They took words that I uttered and it strengthened them in their life, and advanced them in their life. I uttered the words, missed them completely, and crashed and burned in my own experience. You see the way that works. God can take us and use us. Ok. He can take us and use us. And I'm as needy as you are. Ok. None of us are exempt. There are no exemptions in this game.

Lady. We're out there looking for ...

Conrad Bowman. No. No.

Lady. [Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. No. I study ...

Lady. Them I'm all gone.

Conrad Bowman. I study with Adam during the week because I need the perspective of eyes that are forty years younger than mine. Otherwise, I don't know what God's at work doing in this world. Ok. I study with you guys for the same reason. Every question you raise gives me fresh perspective, so that I can see what God is doing among us. We've got to get out of here. I'm sorry. Let me close with prayer.

Father, we thank You so much for just the way You order our lives, and bring us into contact with one another and bring us into touch with Your Word. Just lead us through it and take us farther than any one of us can go on our own. And we thank You for it, in Christ's name. Amen.

Thank you so much.