

FAITHFUL WORD BAPTIST CHURCH
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Faithful Word Baptist Church Sermon

- *Shall we continue in sin?* -

Pastor Steven Anderson 2/21/12

Sermon Overview

In this sermon Pastor Anderson illustrates- using a barrage of examples from scripture- the fallacy that is currently persisting in contemporary Christian mainstream thought- that the gift of grace from God we received as a result of Christ's crucifixion, no longer requires us to follow or "be under" God's law, thereby meaning that it is "fine" to have a relaxed attitude toward sin. Beginning with Romans Chapter six, and then moving through several scriptural references, he cuts right to the heart of this illusion and illustrates how we as Christians ARE in fact still required to follow God's law. Making reference to popular trends, he clearly shows the folly of the corrupt "come as you are, stay as you have been" mainstream Christian churches. Pastor Anderson tackles the Biblical use of the phrase "a peculiar people", pointing out that it is God's desire that once saved, we Christians purify ourselves by following His law, striving to become "a peculiar people, zealous of good works". Sin is defined, as is shown via 1 John 3:4, then unmercifully decried as the Pastor repeatedly savages the stupidity of the "Hell-o-vision" (TV) and drunkenness, among other subjects. The nature of a TRUE relationship with God is discussed, along with the benefits of active soulwinning. Finally, an explanation is given into the last request of Jesus, the "Great Commission".

As per usual this is a lively, passionate sermon which does not mince words, nor compromise with the sin and corruption of the world. May God bless you to be moved to apply these words to your own life.

... He and I have been friends for a long time, we've known each other for over ten years now, and over a decade ago we were going out soulwinning together. And we've been really close friends and he's been like a brother to me- he is my brother in Christ... But, Romans chapter number six, and we'll read the entire chapter beginning with verse number one- the bible reads: "What shall we say then, shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein? Know ye not that so many of us as was baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised into his death? Therefore we are buried with him, by baptism into death. But like as Christ was raised up raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For even as dead is freed from sin, now if we be dead with Christ we believe that we shall also live with him, knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more. Death hath no more dominion over him, for in that he died he died unto sin once, but in that he liveth he liveth unto God. 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. What then, shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourself servants to obey as servants ye are? To whom ye obey whether sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness. But God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.** I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh. For as ye have yielded your members, servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity, even so now ye have members servants to righteousness and to holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have

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your fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death. But the Gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Lets bow our heads in prayer. Father we thank you so much for the opportunity once again to be in your house on a Tuesday night, thank you for those that have stopped everything in the middle of the week and made it a priority to come here on an off night. Help us all to get what we need from your word tonight, please fill me with your Holy Spirit as I preach, and just help every part of this service to honour and glorify you and in Jesus name we pray Amen. (Amen from congregation). Now in Romans chapter six I want to start on verse number one where the bible asks this question- What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?- and the title of the sermon tonight is this- SHALL WE CONTINUE IN SIN? Now, the reason that this question is being asked is that in the book of Romans the apostle Paul had just spent several chapters making it very, VERY clear that **salvation is by faith alone in Jesus Christ, NOT OF WORKS lest any man should boast.** Chapter 3, chapter 4, chapter 5- he just HAMMERED that over and over again. Now first of all let me point out the fact that if we do continue in sin, grace will abound- the bible says "SHALL we continue in sin that grace may abound?"- but go up two verses to Romans 5:20 and the bible reads "moreover the law entered that the offence might abound, but where sin abounded, GRACE DID MUCH MORE ABOUND". So the bible is clear that if we continue in sin, as believers (that's those that are saved, THE SAINTS) **if we continue in sin, GRACE WILL ABOUND. We are NOT going to lose our salvation.** Jesus said, "I give unto them eternal life and they shall NEVER perish. Neither shall any man pluck them out of mine hand." But Paul, after going on and on in these chapters about the fact that salvation is by faith ALONE- not of works lest any man should boast- **he follows that up with the question, what shall we say then? What should be our response to that? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? And of course, the answer to that is GOD FORBID.** Just because we're saved by faith, just because we don't have to do any works to be saved, just because if we continue in sin, grace will abound- should we do that? ABSOLUTELY NOT, and that's he's explaining here.

***“Shall we
continue in
sin that Grace
may abound?
God Forbid.”***

You see I love to preach on the fact that salvation is FAITH ALONE. And there is so much confusion out there where people are trying to somehow mix in their own works, their own good deeds into the gospel, and it's the same thing that's been going on for thousands of years, all throughout history, false religion always teaches a salvation by works. The bible couldn't be ANY CLEARER, that JESUS paid it all, all to HIM I owe, sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow. (Fervently) John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, so that whosoever BELIEVETH on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (Amen from congregation) And if there is ONE person who truly believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, in the whole world, and that person goes to hell, then that verse is a lie. Because the bible says WHOSOEVER believeth in Him, should not perish but have eternal life. The bible says "He that believeth on the Son, hath everlasting life. But he that believeth NOT on the Son, shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth upon him." The bible said "But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE on his name". The Bible says "Verily verily I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life". I could go on and on and we could go through all the great verses, I'd love to just take a tour through the scores of verses in the bible that make that so clear, that salvation is by faith. Romans 3- I'll bring up one more where the bible says "**Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.**" "**But what shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?**" Many people will ironically take a portion of this chapter- go to chapter 6:14- and they'll actually use this to teach the doctrine that condones sin. I don't condone sin, and no righteous preacher CONDONES SIN. Jesus Christ said "Think not that I have come to destroy the law, or the prophets". He said "I came not to destroy but to fulfil. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least

***Jesus said “If you
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commandments”***

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commandments" (you know the little commandments, the nit-picky) He said "**whosoever shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the LEAST in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called GREAT in the Kingdom of Heaven**". And Jesus said "If you love me keep my commandments"- not my suggestions. And so we ought to believe and to preach and FOLLOW THE COMMANDMENTS of GOD'S WORD- Also known as God's Law.

But many people will misunderstand a scripture here, in Romans 6:14 the bible reads "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for ye are not under law, but under grace". The Bible's real clear in this verse, that we are not under the law, but under grace- but people will take that and say "See! We don't have to obey God's law. Now keep your finger there and go to 1 John Chapter 3. While you're turning there let me note that in the famous passage, in 1 Corinthians 9, when the apostle Paul is talking about winning souls and preaching the gospel and trying to get people saved- we've all heard the famous quote probably that said "I've become all things to all men that I might by all means save some". But he said this, he said that to those who were without the law, I became as without law, but NOT WITHOUT LAW TO CHRIST. He said he was under the law to Christ. Now, what does that mean? Well, look if you would at 1 John Chapter 3:4. The Bible says "Whosoever committeth sin, transgresseth also the law, for **SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW**". So here we find a biblical definition of what sin is. Sin is transgressing God's Law. sin is BREAKING one of God's commandments- that is the DEFINITION of sin. Back to Romans six. Romans six is a chapter where almost every verse brings up the word sin- I don't know if you know this, but when we were reading it almost every single verse saying "don't sin, don't continue to sin, don't live in sin, put off sin, walk in the new man, don't walk in the flesh, don't fulfil the lust of the flesh" and He says over and over again "DON'T SIN, DON'T SIN, DON'T SIN" and then in the middle of that they'll take this verse that says "(you're) not under the law" and then they'll say "hey- we don't have to obey God's commandments". But wait a minute, SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW. So if we're not supposed to obey God's laws and commandments, why would He tell us in verse 15, "What then SHALL WE SIN because we are not under the law? GOD FORBID." He said just because you are not under the law, he said you should still live by the law and follow God's Law. You say, "what does that mean, we are not under the law?"- go to Galatians 3. This is the foundation for the sermon. Galatians chapter 3 explains what the bible REALLY means when it says we are not under the law. **Alot of people say "we are not under the law therefore we don't need to obey God's Law". "We're just kind of going through life and the New Testament freestyle. Just freestyle, just whatever we want to do, whatever is right in our own eyes, whatever we FEEL the holy spirit is leading us to do, that's our law, that's our rule because we're under grace and we are not under the law". That's NOT WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES** (laughs exasperatedly, amen from Congregation).

"We're just kind of going through life freestyle..."

THAT IS NOT WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES!

The Bible has got some COMMANDMENTS, it's got commandments in the Old Testament, it's got commandments in the New Testament, and when the Bible says we are not under the law, what did He mean by that? Well the bible explains it in Galatians 3:10 the Bible says "For as many as there of the works of the law, are under the curse. For it is written, cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, but the judged shall live by faith and the law is not of faith, but the man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed them from the curse of the law being made accursed for us. For it is written, cursed is everyone that hangeth on the tree, that the blessing of Abraham may come on the Gentiles, through Jesus Christ, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." What does it mean to not be under the law, according to verse 10, it's that we are not under the curse of the law. Now being under the curse of the law is the curse is the curse that God put in Dueteronomy 7, when He said "Cursed be He that continueth not in all the words of the law to do them, and all the people said amen." But I got news for you. **NO-ONE HAS CONTINUED IN ALL THE WORKS OF THE LAW, that's why WE NEED JESUS CHRIST. That's why we have to be SAVED.** It's because NOBODY has followed that law

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***“AFTER we
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to a T. "For all his sin has come short of the glory of GOD". And so the bible has explained to us- " You are under GRACE, you are not under the CURSE of the law, you have been REDEEMED from the CURSE of the law." You see when it comes to salvation, It's one hundred per cent by GRACE, NOT by the law. And that's why He reiterated it again here, when He said, in verse number 11 "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God it is evident, for the just shall live by faith." **So one side over here we have salvation totally by faith, TOTALLY by grace, and on this side we have- AFTER we are saved- what God expects of us, what God demands of us. And you know what it is? It's WORKS. And it's adherence to the law.** So when it comes to salvation, it's nothing to do with the law, it's nothing to do with works.

But does that mean that we just continue in sin? That we don't do any works? NO. It means that we SHOULD do works, and then Romans 6 He said over and over again- "What shall we say then shall we continue in sin that grace

may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein? Know ye not that so many of us that were baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised in his death. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism." That doesn't sound like SPRINKLING. That doesn't sound like POURING. The bible says we were BURIED with him by baptism into death. "That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also SHOULD (you see that?), we also SHOULD walk in newness of life." Do we have to walk in newness of life to be saved? No. Are we automatically, once saved going to walk in newness of life? No. But He said, you know what? **We SHOULD walk in newness of life. We SHOULD not continue in sin. We should live differently than the unsaved and the ungodly.** We SHOULD be different. We SHOULD follow God's Laws. We SHOULD not continue to sin. Go to Titus chapter 2 if you would toward the end of the New Testament. Chapter 2. You see God's plan for our life is not just to save us. It's not just get saved, and then get other people saved and then that's it. God has more of a purpose in our lives than just getting us saved and just getting other people saved. Now I think the most important thing is getting saved. Because "What does a man profit if he so gains the whole world and loses his own soul?". So getting saved is number one thing but it is not the only thing. Getting OTHER people saved, it stands to reason should be the number one work we should do, but it's not the ONLY work that we should do. Because God's plan for our life and God's plan for believers is not just to be saved but watch now in Titus 2:14 it says "He gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity." The Bible says in whom we have redemption through his blood the forgiveness of sins. But look it doesn't stop there. **"That He might redeemeth from all iniquity AND PURIFY unto himself a PECULIAR PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS."** So He died for us, yes to save us, but it was also to PURIFY us and it was also to put us to work, so there is more to it than just being saved. That is just the beginning.

Now, that word "a PECULIAR people" is an interesting term if you follow it throughout the Bible. Go if you would to 1 Peter 2. The word peculiar is used in 5 places in the Bible. And basically means different. He is saying that you are a peculiar people. He is saying that you are to be purified with, let's face it, if you are pure, you are going to be different from others, because we don't live in a PURE world. We live in an impure world. We live in a dirty or an unclean world. So if we are going to be purified we are going to be different from those around us we are going to be peculiar. Now if you look at what it says in 1 Peter 2:9 it says "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an Holy nation, a peculiar people. That ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of the darkness into His marvellous light. Which when time passed are not a people, but are now the people of God. Which hath not obtained mercy, but now hath obtained mercy." Now what's interesting about this is that if you go to where peculiar first starts being used, it's when the children of Israel are being brought out of the land of Egypt. And in Exodus 19, God tells them "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and heed my covenant, then ye shall be as peculiar treasure unto me, above all people." He is talking to the children of Israel that He

***“He died for
us to save
us, yes, but
also to
PURIFY us”***

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“YOU are the Holy Nation, a priesthood of peculiar people!”

brought out of Egypt. "For all the earth is mine and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests". Look down at your bible there at 1 Peter 2:9-10, as I read these words to you from Exodus. See, it's a quote from Exodus. He says "Ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." so this is something that God told the sons of Israel. He said "if you obey me and keep my covenant, you will be a peculiar people, an holy nation, a kingdom of priests unto me." And Dueteronomy 14:2 He reiterated he said "Thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God. And the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself above all the nations that are upon the earth. In Dueteronomy 26:18 he said "The Lord hath avouched thee today to be His peculiar people, as he has promised thee. And that thou shouldst keep all His commandments, and make thee high above all nations, which he hath made in praise and in name and in honour that thou mayest be a holy people under the Lord thy God as he has spoken."

But I've got news for you. That nation did not obey God's commands in those scriptures. He says in Hebrews Chapter 8, **"They continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord." And that's why when John the Baptist came on the scene he said "Think NOT to say within yourselves we have Abraham to our father, for I say unto you that God is able for these stones to raise us children unto Abraham. And now as the act is laid unto the root of the tree, and every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is cast into the fire." And you see the children rejected the Lord Jesus Christ. And that's why Jesus said unto them, "The kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."** You say what nation is that? Where the kingdom of God resides? Well the bible spoke to all believers collectively in 1 Peter 2:9-10. And it said, you are that holy nation. Look down at the bible, I'll prove it to you "But ye are a chosen generation, a holy priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people." I've got news for you, he wasn't talking to the people that crucified Christ. **He said YOU'RE the holy nation, a priesthood of peculiar people.** That ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of the darkness into His marvellous light." You say "no, no, it's the Jews." Look at verse 10- "Which in times past were NOT a people." They already WERE a people. But now he's talking about a group that were NOT a people. You see it's not a particular nation. When He says "the kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a nation bringing forth the fruit thereof." He wasn't talking to just one specific geographic in the United States. No He said it's given unto the nation which comprises of believers. **Basically He said to ALL believers, "you are a chosen generation, you are a holy priesthood, you are a peculiar people.** The Bible says that He would call out a people unto himself out of all nations. Out of all tongues, and all kindreds. They would all be called out. And He said there shall be one fold and one shepherd. That's, what the Bible teaches.

“You want to visit the Holy Land? You are sitting in the Holy Land. It's God's House!”

Unfortunately many baptists today are not following in the footsteps of John the Baptist, and they somehow think that the unbelieving Jew somehow has a free pass because of a birthright into the kingdom of God or into the holy nation, Let me tell you something. **You want to visit the holy land? You are sitting in the Holy Land. It's God's House.** And honestly I'm here to tell you tonight that **it's salvation that makes you the people of God.** And people will still today try to hang on to that fact. And they'll even point to these verses in the Old Testament about "peculiar people", and they'll try to apply that to unbelieving Israel today. It just isn't right, it's just not biblical. I'm not going to sit here and tell you today that Jerry Seinfeld is one of the people of God. And you say, "But wait a minute isn't he Jewish, doesn't he descend from Abraham?" Hold on a second. I've got two words for you tonight- Avoid genealogies. Did you hear me? How do you know Jerry Seinfeld is Jewish? How do you know that David Lee Roth from Van Halen is Jewish? How do you know that the three stooges- Larry, Curly and Moe are Jewish? And these are the people that are Jews- so called. But the Bible says "he is not a jew which is one outwardly. But he is the jew which is one inwardly. And

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circumcision is NOT an outward circumcision of the flesh, because the circumcision which is of the heart and the spirit, which praise does not offend, but of God." And the Bible is so clear, that **WE ARE THE CIRCUMCISION, PHILLIPIANS CHAPTER 3. WE WORSHIP GOD IN THE SPIRIT AND WE DO IT IN CHRIST JESUS.** And have no confidence in the flesh. We don't rejoice in some messiah that is still paying. We rejoice in the messiah that already paid. And the Bible says "Who is the liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ. He is ANTICHRIST, which denieth the Father and the Son".

And so that was kind of, a little diversion from the sermon about "shall we continue in sin?". But you know what? Maybe it will help you not to continue in sin when you realise who you are. You are part of the Holy Nation. Don't look at somebody who is part of some other nation and think "oh I wish I were in that nation". Red, Yellow, Black and White, you are not second class in his sight, **YOU ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD, if you are SAVED** tonight. And if you are a chosen generation, if you are a royal priesthood, **if you are a holy nation, you BETTER be a peculiar people. You ought to be different from the people around you.** Got to be purified as a peculiar people.

Now back to Titus 2 if you would. We were there a little earlier when we started talking about the peculiar people from the scriptures in the Bible. And the Bible reads in verse 14 "He gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works." Look at, verse 11, the bible reads "But the grace of God that bringest salvation hath appeared to all man". Tell that to the Calvinist who tries to say it's only a few people who He died for. He died for everybody. He died not for our sins only, but also for the sins of the whole world. He is the saviour of all man, especially of those that believe". But the Bible says in verse 12- "**Teaching us so, not only did grace bring us salvation but God also wants to teach us, more than that, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, that we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world**". I love that verse 12. (reads verse again, to emphasise). Somebody said to me not too long ago, they said, "What is this WORLDINESS? What do you mean? Where do you come up with this?" They act like it's not a legitimate word. You know, have you ever run into somebody like this? The sad thing is alot of Christians have never even heard that word, but there it is in the Bible. It says that we should deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. Now why is He saying worldly lusts? If you want you can turn to 1 John 2:15. It says "**Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world, the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes and the pride of life is not of the Father is not of the world. And the world passeth away and the lust thereof. But he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." You see, being WORLDY is when you are conformed to the world. The Bible said be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed, by the renewing of your mind."

You see worldliness is when you live just like everybody else that is not saved, that are not living according to God's word. **So, if you are going to be a peculiar people is the OPPOSITE of being worldly.** And He said this "All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life". You see that is all that the world has to offer. That is EVERY movie. That's what is going to be playing across the TV screen. It's just lust after lust after pride after pride. "Hey what's on TV?" Lust, pride, ungodliness ok? And you see today, Christians today think "Oh, we're not under the law, we're under grace, let's just continue in sin. Let's just keep on filling our eyes and our flesh with the lusts that we crave with the old man". You see, it's not just wrong to commit sin or to commit acts of lust in the flesh. You know its also wrong to gratify the lusts of the eyes. The Bible says that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And today, we as believers, need to say like David of old, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes. **I HATE THE WORK OF THOSE THAT TURN ASIDE. It SHALL NOT CLEAVE UNTO ME.**" You see the things that you look at with your eyes, they cleave unto you. They stay with you. They go INTO you, the don't go out. And you look and feast your eyes on the flesh of scantily clad women across the silver screen and the television and you fill your mind with that and that corrupts your heart. And it leads you into temptation and into sin. And sin into death. We ought to be peculiar.

***“God wants
to teach us
that we
should live
soberly,
righteously
and Godly”***

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Look, your average person today has no discrimination with what's on TV, there is ZERO discrimination. It's just "Oh, Hollywood has put out this movie, let's watch it. Oh, this is the popular TV show everyone at work is talking about? Let's just sit down and watch it." We are supposed to be different than that. Say NO, I don't need no world to entertain me. And there is a reason why it is called programming. IT'S SATAN, it's Satan that is programming you to think that dressing like a hoochie mama is the way that God is going to allow you to use to meet the right man. It's programming you to think that people go to bed after the first date. (responses from congregation growing louder) It's programming you to think that going to bed before you are MARRIED is fine. **It's PROGRAMMING you to THINK that SIN is FINE.** (AMEN from congregation) "This Bud's for you". They don't show you the dark side. (loud AMEN).

I've often been accused of sheltering my children because I don't sit them down in front of the Hell-o-vision and let them be preyed upon by every ungodly thing that the devil wants to serve up for them that day. But honestly, I don't believe in sheltering my children, I don't shelter my children. You say well "Pastor Anderson, how do you not shelter them from the world?" The Bible said "I don't wanna take you out from the world, I just want to keep you from the evils. **And let me tell you the best way to not shelter your children is to take them out soul winning.** Because, get this, I take my children out

***"If any man come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me."
And so we have to DENY ourselves of the lusts of the flesh. We have to DENY ungodliness.***

soulwinning with me. And we go to the worst areas sometimes, and let me tell you something. They see alcohol, they see promiscuity, they see drugs. But they see it in it's true habitat, in it's natural environment. **When you see sin on the SCREEN, what you see is a perfectly clean house, athletically built individuals that are good looking and wealthy, driving nice cars. And everything is clean as a whistle,** and they wake up in the morning and they drink hard liquor for breakfast. You know and you see that just sleeping around, being a sodomite, being a queer, doing all that stuff- it's just all glorified. They don't show you the disease that's wracking the body of every sodomite, because of all the filth that they are involved in. You are not going to see it- I don't wanna see it- but I'm just saying they are not going to show that to you. **They are not going to show you the effects of sin,** but when you go out soulwinning to these neighbourhoods, oh, you'll see alcohol. My kids have seen alcohol many times. But they saw drunkenness, and they saw the dirty house, they smelled the smell of sin and filth, they saw the

disgusting results of people who have abuse their bodies to the point to where they are just wracked with the effects. Have you ever looked at someone and said "wow, that person has lived a hard life." And thank God for people who later on in life saved or get right with God and clean it up and of course they will get a brand new body in heaven. But let me tell you something though, it's good for kids to see that and go "wait a minute, that's not how I want to be. That's not how I want to end up. That's not what I want to do." So, THAT'S the budweiser commercial that I show my children.

I show them budweiser in the ghetto's. I show them drugs and all that stuff in it's real environment and try to love and reach out and bring salvation to those people that are involved in that kind of a lifestyle. I'm not going to glorify that to them. I'm not going to show them where it looks cool, because it isn't cool. I mean, **when you go out in the ghetto, beer and cigarettes, drugs and fornication don't look nearly as cool as they do on the billboard do they? When you see the realities of it. When you see the FACTS of sin.** Back in Titus 2:11 it says "the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness" - Jesus Christ said "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself". That means say no to the things that you crave and that the flesh want. He said, "If any man come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me." And so we have to DENY ourselves of the lusts of the flesh. We have to deny ungodliness. And worldly lusts and - watch this- He said we should live soberly.

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Now, a lot of people today will teach and believe that drinking is okay. Now I don't believe that drinking is okay. And honestly you will run into a lot of Christians that will say "Oh, it's okay to drink, just so long as you don't get drunk." And you watch them just down one after another after another (impersonates conceited drunk Christian, laughs audible from congregation). Right? It's true. WHATS EVEN THE POINT? But here's the funny thing, they'll say " Well, the Bible doesn't say not to drink, it just says not to get drunk." But you know what else it says? It says BE SOBER. Now, if you were to ask me- and I'm not an expert on alcohol- and I think personally that it's different for everybody. If you were to ask me how many drinks does it take to get drunk I'd say I don't know. There are probably some who can handle more than others before they become drunk. It's different in everyone's body with their chemistry. So you say well "Pastor Anderson, how many drinks does it take before someone is drunk?" I'll be honest, I don't know. But I'll tell you one thing for sure, I know how many drinks it takes to be sober- ZERO. And the bible does not just say "don't be drunk." Yeah, it does, but you know what else it says in 1 Thess 5:6? it says "Be sober". You know what it says in 1 Thess 5:8? it says "Be sober." You know what it says in 1 Tim 3:2 "Be sober". You know what it says in 1 Tim 3:11? "**Be sober**". You know what it says in Titus 1:8? "Be sober". You know what it says in Titus 2:2? "**Be SOBER**". Verse 4, "**Be SOBER!**" Verse 6, AGAIN, "**be SOBER!**" He said women "be sober!" He said men, "be sober!" **The young need to be sober! The old need to be sober!** That's what He said in Titus chapter 2. At 1 Peter 4:7, He said "**Be SOBER!**" In first Peter 5:8 said **BE SOBER! BE SOBER! BE SOBER!!!**

*When you
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You say "well that's just talking about being serious". Well that's part of it but he mentions alcohol in the scriptures in the context of being sober. You're going to tell me that when you are drinking you are sober? That's nonsense! But that's how people have justified sin. I want to do it, so I'm being sober and vigilant, because my adversary the devil walked (unintelligible) one line seeking whom he may devour. And the Bible says in proverbs 23 that **when you drink He says "Thine eyes shall behold strange women and thine mouth shall utter perverse things"**. I don't want to say perverted things. I don't want to look upon strange women. Therefore, I do not want to partake of alcohol. I want to be completely sober. I don't to be partially in this grey zone between sober and drunkenness. I would rather be one hundred per cent sober all the time. Because I know that my adversary the devil is out to get me. Just like he's out to get you. I think of King Belshazzar in the Old Testament, the book of Daniel, if you know the story. King Belshazzar, was having a great feast and a great party and he called upon the servants to bring to him the vessels from the house of God. Because he'd been drinking, and drinking emboldens you to sin. Things that you wouldn't normally do, it emboldens you to do those things. And so he calls for the vessels from God's house that he might drink wine in the vessels of God's house, and praise the Gods of Gold and the Gods of Silver with his maidens. And he has a girl on this arm, and a girl on that arm. And he is drinking, and he is so BOLD, and he's so tough. And he's so emboldened to commit sin. And if you remember the fingers from a man's hand begin to write on the wall. And the Bible says that instantly Belshazzar's house and his face were changed. He wasn't so tough anymore. And the Bible says he began to shake and to tremble so much that his knees literally smote one another. That sobered him up pretty fast. Well that is the same way that alcohol is going to affect you. Your eyes will behold strange women, your mouth will speak perverse things, you will be lifted up with pride. **Pride. You will be lifted up and haughty in spirit. And that's why the Bible says to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and that we are to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.**

Now go if you would to Mathew 28. I mentioned earlier the title was "Shall we continue in sin?" I mean shall we just continue to feast our eyes on the lusts of the flesh. I mean, shall we continue to gratify our lusts in every way? Shall we? Because we are saved by grace? Because we are not under the curse of the law? Because we are not under the law but under grace? Because we are saved by grace? Should we just continue in sin? Should we just continue to gratify the flesh? Or

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should we deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow him? Should we just continue to live like the rest of the world around us? Should just continue to enjoy all the same things that our unsaved buddies at work enjoy? Should we just continue to have the same conversation, the same speech, the same lifestyle, the same pattern of life as all the ungodly people around us in the world? Should we enjoy all the same TV shows, all the same movies, should we enjoy all of the same enjoyments and drinking and partying and revelry that the world around us enjoys? Or should we be a peculiar people? Turn to Mathew 28, keep your finger in that spot, go to James 1. Do you see how I mentioned earlier that we are not under law, we are under grace in regard to our salvation, but He follows that up immediately with "what shall we say then, shall we sin because we are not under the law?" And what is sin according to the Bible? It's transgression of the law. so He is basically saying "So because we are not under the law shall we transgress the law? God Forbid". God forbid. **When Jesus Christ died for us he loved us and gave himself for us and then he just asked us if we loved him to keep his commandments.** And we say "Well, we don't have to, we are free in Christ". Yeah, you don't have to, to go to heaven, but you have to if you love God. If you love Christ. You have to if you want to be blessed by God.

But in James 1:27 I'll go there in a second, but we talked about worldliness and so forth, but... I was out soul winning and I knocked down the door of a guy and I was giving this guy the gospel and it turns out he was already saved. But he was a friendly guy, he wanted to talk a little bit, so we were chatting a little bit, and I was explaining to him about why I only use the KJV. You know why I don't use these modern versions. I was showing him stuff, and this other guy comes out, this real smug guy comes out, he was his roommate. He comes out, he had a shirt that I found very offensive. It was, Jesus on the cross, I don't think we should have images of Jesus. The Bible says you didn't see an image when you were on the mount - he said to Moses- he said you just heard a voice, so don't make any image. And you know, I've heard God's word, I'm hearing it tonight, you are hearing it tonight, I read it every time in the Bible. But I don't see any pictures in here. So he had some long haired hippy looking Jesus on the cross, you know, I didn't like his shirt. But he's standing there real smug, listening to me talk, and I'm just explaining what I believe from the bible. And he went like this, he said "You need to get free bro". I said excuse me? He said "You need to get free bro, it sounds like you're in some kind of bondage. We're not under law, we're under grace. We're not under the law, you are trying to bring us back into bondage. And I said "So I'm in some kind of bondage because I believe there is only one version of the Bible and that God didn't give us all these contradictory versions, even though they say different stuff, they are all (somehow) the same? I'm in some kind of bondage and so forth? Nut you see that's the mentality today. When a preacher gets up and starts screaming about alcohol, screaming about TV shows, screaming about whatever worldliness it's (Impersonates hippy) **"Hey, you need to get FREE bro". That's the mentality. You know what? The Bible says if you commit sin you are the servant of sin, that's not free.** You're not free. You are not free when you have to drink to have fun. When you have to smoke whether you want to or not, because you are addicted to it. You are not free when you can't even go a few minutes without fumbling for the remote. That's not freedom. And so that is the mentality today (among unbelievers).

***Jesus Christ
died for us. He
loved us and
gave himself
for us, and
then he just
asked us if we
loved him to
keep his
command-
ments.***

And I have seen this trend in the- whatever you want to call, the liberals or the new evangelicals, everything basically that is the opposite of this church (laughs). This is the trend I have seen- they attack this word "religion". It's just the cool thing you know. "I hate religion". I've seen stickers of it on people's cars. I seen a sticker the other day you know just huge letters- "NO RELIGION". So I think ok, they must be atheists. But I walk up to it and microscopic print- You know it just says NNNNOOOOO REEELLIIGGGIIIIOOOONNN!!! and then in microscopic print it says "just a relationship with God". Now here is the thing. I don't know what they mean. People use words. Whenever you are using words that are not in the Bible. They can kind of mean different things to different people. Like when I was growing up I would hear people say "hey you need to have a relationship with Jesus". I thought to myself "They are talking about salvation- that just means that I just need to be His son and He is my father so we are related". You know, that's like a relationship, a father and a son. But see

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“Religion is necessary to please God as a Christian.”

alot of people mean when they say "have a relationship"- they are talking about basically like where I have an ongoing relationship with my wife, we talk every day, we have fellowship with one another right? And we are building a relationship, or (they are suggesting like) a relationship with friends or family. Look, if that's what saves you,

then that is not the gospel of Jesus Christ, because the gospel of Jesus Christ is that you believe on him, one time. And listen to this, a relationship is a daily thing. See I only got married once, right? And that makes me married. I don't have to get re-married over and over again. I just got married and I'm married. Now is the relationship a one time thing though with my wife? Or is that an ongoing thing? So the relationship is an ongoing thing so it takes alot of work, it takes alot of effort, it takes money. (Inaudible followed by laughter). **So the relationship is ongoing but salvation is a one time event. Salvation is in a moment in a blink of an eye. Whereas the relationship takes work and effort.**

Now here's the thing, If I don't talk to my wife and my wife doesn't talk to me we are not going to have a good relationship. But are we still married? Yes we are, see what I mean? So if I don't talk to God through prayer and He doesn't talk to me through his work, we're not going to have a good relationship (though I'm still saved). But here is what they'll say- "Just a relationship, not religion. It's not religion it's a relationship". This is what people are promoting today as Christianity. They want a religionless Christianity. They want a relationship. But they, I'm sorry I think I misspoke... They want a relationship with Jesus, but they don't want Jesus' religion and here's why- because here is what the bible says religion is. You want to know why they are so against religion, this just will tell you right now where that- and there is a billboard up in phoenix that says "RELIGION STINKS". Giant billboard it's put out by a church. "RELIGION STINKS!", it actually says something worse than that I'm just kind of toning it down for you tonight. But it says in James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world". This is what modern day Christianity doesn't want to do. It doesn't want to keep itself unspotted from the world. They want to INDULGE in the lusts of the flesh. They want to INDULGE in worldly lusts. They do not want to live soberly. They do not want to live Godly. They do not want to live righteously. So therefore their slogan becomes "No religion". Because religion is about keeping yourself unspotted from the world! **RELIGION is about keeping the LORD JESUS CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS! A religion is COMPOSED OF COMMANDMENTS! And they don't want that.** They want just the relationship.

Now imagine this. What if my children- because we are God's children, right?- what if my children said "Dad, I don't want religion. I don't want your do's and don'ts. I just want to have a relationship with you Dad". I'd say "You are about to have a relationship with my belt!" Don't tell me you don't want to have my rules. Don't tell me you want to have a "relationship" with me. "Dad, I want to talk to you, I want you to talk to me, I want to hang out with you, I want to spend time with you, I want to feel close to you, but I just want to do whatever I want!" I would say "No, there is no relationship without rules in my house because I'm Dad". Now for friends, we can have a relationship without rules if we are on the same even playing field, but guess what? **Jesus is NOT on an even playing field with us. He is our LORD. He is our MASTER. It's GOD. He is the ALMIGHTY. We bow our knees before HIM and say "yes I will follow your religion!"** Not for salvation- salvation is by Grace through faith. But I will follow your religion because you have commanded me to do so to keep myself unspotted from the world. So don't get caught up in

James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world"

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this "Religion is bad". No it isn't! It looks pretty good to me in this verse! And so there are bad religions out there, but religion is not bad. **Religion is necessary to please God as a Christian.**

We will go to one last place tonight, Mathew 28. The title of the sermon is "You need to get free bro!" (Laughter) No, ah, the title of the sermon is "Shall we continue in sin?" You know is that what we are going to do? You know, we believe salvation is by faith so let's just continue in sin. Let's just live it up. Let's just eat, drink and be merry because tomorrow we die. And you know what, someone even said to me one time, "well the Bible says give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, wine unto those with heavy hearts, so that's me, I'm of a heavy heart". Are you ready to perish? Jesus said whosoever believeth in me shall NEVER DIE!!! He said they SHALL NOT perish that hath everlasting life!!! But He says in Mathew 28. This is the great commission. And last time I was here I preached about soul winning and I love the map here that's filled in here from soul winning, and it needs to be filled in alot more so more people need to... Hey the harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few. We need more people knocking these doors preaching the Gospel. But did you know that the great commission is not just getting people saved? Now getting people saved is step one of the great commission. Look at it there in Mathew 28:28 it says that Jesus came and spake unto the saints "All power is given unto me in heaven as in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations (that's preaching the gospel), Baptising them in the name of the Father and of the son and the Holy Ghost" -that's the next step after you get saved, after you learn the gospel, believe on Him. The next step is to be baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. But watch the third part. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world". So according to that right there, the great commission is not complete until you have first gotten somebody saved, and then they have been baptised, and then you teach them ALL THINGS that Christ commanded. Not just salvation, but also purification. Not just redeemed unto all iniquity, but purified unto him a peculiar people zealous of good works. You see this takes a lifetime. Salvation takes a moment. Baptism takes a moment. If we're doing everything that Christ commanded us it's going to take a lifetime. It's going to go on and on.

"All power is given unto me in heaven as in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the son and the Holy Ghost"

So, it's not just the great commission to go out and get people saved. Coming here on a Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night and listening to God's word getting preached, learning- I hope you are learning some things tonight from His word. When you are learning things, you are fulfilling this. And when brother Jiminez gets up to preach, he is fulfilling the great commission when he rips on sin also. Not just "it's all about soulwinning and getting people saved". That's great that's number one, but you know what? When he preaches against sin, and worldly lusts... When he preaches against all these things that we are supposed to avoid, he is also fulfilling the last request of Jesus Christ, before he ascended up into heaven from being on this earth when he said teach all nations, give the gospel to all nations. He said "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all nations" he said in Mathew 24". And when he baptises. And when he teaches you, he is fulfilling that. And when you win people to Christ, you are fulfilling that. And when you bring them to be baptised, you are fulfilling that. And when you open your Bible and you teach them other things from the Bible that could help purify. that could help give them the works that they need to do- you are fulfilling the great commission.

Now lets bow our heads in prayer. Father we thank you so much for your word tonight and for salvation. I thank you that salvation is by faith because if we were to be weighed in the balances we would all be found wanting. None of us is good enough to go to heaven and so thank you for the free gift of eternal life. But Father help us to realise that salvation took place for us one time in the past, help us to move forward with some purification and with good works, guide us and direct us as we seek to fulfil your laws and your commandments. And to follow the true religion and undefiled of your word and in Jesus name we pray, Amen.

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