

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021
GRACE DOCTRINE CHURCH
CRISIS MANAGEMENT

When I heard from Joe asking if I could fill in this morning, I immediately said yes but after putting my phone down I thought, “What in the heck am I going to say Sunday morning?” I always have a couple of studies in the oven to be ready but when I think about how much Bible Doctrine has been taught from this pulpit my mind always vectors to, “What can I teach this congregation that our pastor hasn’t already taught them?” So, I always try to come up with a subject that I can make practical or say it in a different way or even just take you back to the basics that will help you recall what you already know.

So today we’re going to look at “Crisis Management**” and hopefully by the end of the second session I can tie it all together and give you something to think about and challenge you with. So, hang on and let’s get started.**

We live in a crazy world and so many Christians are at a loss as to why God is allowing all this craziness and chaos to happen in our country. There is a lot of wringing of hands and gnashing of teeth. It’s some of the craziest things I’ve ever seen in my life. I know I’m saying, “Come Lord Jesus**”, and the rapture couldn’t happen soon enough. But we’re not going to discuss the rapture so get those thoughts out of your head.**

Almost everyone wants to talk about high inflation, vaccine mandates, crime, jobs that are lost, what’s going on in the schools with Critical Race Theory is really pushing parents

to the limit and gender pronouns are very troubling for parents especially Christian parents and on and on it goes.

Then you have other individuals who have one crisis in their life after another. Many lives are falling apart because of things mentioned above. Then add to this what used to be good is now evil and what used to be evil is now good.

We also have 24-hour news which is full of disasters and tragedies. Just in the last couple of weeks we have seen young people killed in a school shooting, the criminal who drove through the Christmas Parade. How do you handle these events?

We all have crisis in our lives and to us they are the most horrible things in the world and many people just fall apart. We don't understand why all this is happening. I hear Christians say all the time with what's going on in my life and what's happening to our country I don't think I can take it anymore. Others make all sorts of excuses for what's happening and then others just throw up their hands in despair.

But when you ask them about their spiritual life, they immediately start making excuses. Many times, they respond, "You have no idea what's been going on in my life." I don't need to hear what's going on in their lives because I have plenty going on in my own life or I can look at the empty seats at this church and tell there must be a lot of important things going on in people's lives or the seats would be full. I think the verse we need to remember is Hebrews 10:25: **"Not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near."**

Let's start with a principle: **The first thing we need to remember is that every crisis in the life of a believer is a**

chance to glorify God. How? By using the great spiritual life, you have been provided.

How about using the resources you have? How about the incredible Problem-Solving Devices, like Grace and Doctrinal Orientation and Sharing the Happiness of God and in personal relationships how about a little impersonal love. We could even use the Royal Law that our Pastor has taught us over and over!!

Of course, you can't use any of these if you don't have any maturity. Maybe you don't even been listen when you do make it to Bible Class? Application is the hard part isn't it. Anyone can talk a great game but it's a lot harder to apply the Word of God to life and circumstances.

There is a greater purpose in tragedies, in misfortune, in disaster, in accidents. There's always a greater purpose and that's God's plan.

What you do with a little problem determines what you will do with a big problem. In life little problems are just practice. It's a chance for you to use what you have, to learn to use what you have when the big problem comes along.

But you've got to practice before you can do that. You practice, practice, practice. Don't get upset with a little adversity – USE IT AS PRACTICE! IT WILL BUILD CONFIDENCE AND MAKE IT EASIER TO USE THE WORD OF GOD IN YOUR SOUL NEXT TIME! I PROMISE.

Many individuals have challenges going on in their lives right now and our country is falling apart and yet there are open seats at this church and at other doctrinal churches across America where truth is taught. This place should be packed. We're being fed "filet mignon", not milk! But you must be a "truth seeker" to show up.

The believer glorifies God by handling a crisis using the Word of God in the soul, using divine resources, using the Problem-Solving Devices, having a faith rest attitude. Grace and doctrinal orientation.

You have adversity in your life? Don't just think about the adversity think about the solution. Then when the bigger thing hits, you're ready.

PRINCIPLE: If you can't handle the small things, you will be destroyed by the big things.

My question is? Can you use faith-rest through it all? It's a great test of the potency of your spiritual life in all adversities.

Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 145:18-19: "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

Vs.19: he will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them."

By the way you might fail initially but that does not mean you are a total failure. When you take stock of where you are, what your attitude is then you recover.

When you have Bible Doctrine in your soul it will come to the fore front when needed. You'll have a few moments where you lose it. But it's there. It had better be there or you won't have anything to utilize, and you will fall apart.

How many times have you heard someone say they're depressed? I've heard it more than I can count, and I've even said it in the past. You may even get downhearted because it doesn't look like God is doing anything. Do you think He doesn't know what's going on? Are you going to grow in

grace and trust His plan is perfect? The hardest thing is to trust in His plan and await His will!

Here's a principle for you: **We must learn that when it comes to adversity, we are delivered through the difficulties not out of difficulties.**

You may not get out of it, but you have the spiritual life to get through it and to glorify God by using the spiritual life.

Deliverance through difficulties shows the true value in the resources of the spiritual life and of the Problem-Solving Devices.

God does not always lift difficult circumstances off believers to keep them from suffering. We have a tendency to think if God is good, and God is great and God is loving He'll take this stuff off of me. He'll remove it.

Suffering has benefit for believers. It's not bad. That's another lesson we need to learn. Suffering has benefits. We grow exponentially through suffering. Through the Lord delivering us through it we learn to depend on the Lord and the Problem-Solving Devices.

We are prepared then to represent God to the world by using these skills developed in metabolizing Bible Doctrine and living the spiritual life and that's what glorifies God. The overall purpose for our lives in this world as Christians and the skills to handle all adversity.

Isaiah 40:31: "Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."

Gain strength through adversity that's what the Christian life does for you if your patient, if you wait for the will of God to unfold. Continue your advance. Let your light shine (

In John 8:12 and John 9:5 Jesus Christ is referred to as the light of the world.

John 8:12: “Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

John 9:5: “While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”

Jesus Christ illuminates this world! How? By His word, His truth, His thinking.

It is the light of truth which guides the believer in life, and it keeps you from stumbling in the darkness of Human Viewpoint.

Did you know any time you are walking in darkness you are outside of the bounds of God’s plan? Any time Bible Doctrine is not in you there is no light.

Darkness is the place of stumbling in the Christian life. No mission accomplishments in the Plan of God for you. No solutions to problems in life. You’ll flounder in the face of all problems in life. Problems will get to you. You’ll have a miserable time dealing with problems and adversity. You’ll have fear and failure. Failure in the Christian life.

The Christian life is so easy. Either you have light in you or you have darkness. You either have Divine Viewpoint or you live in Human Viewpoint. You either solve problems God’s way or flounder and fail. It’s that simple. The solution is simple. Get some light. Get some truth. Renovate your thinking.

This is why the light in us is so important. The light of Divine Viewpoint. There is no substitute.

1 John 1:6-7: “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

Vs.7: But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

This is the warning. Walk in the light. Here’s the mandate to walk in the light. Those who stumble are not filled with the Holy Spirit, they’re out of fellowship.

1 John 1:6-7 says “**walk in the light**” that is to believers. Then it says you’ve got to be “**filled with the Holy Spirit**”. You have got to name your sins and stay in fellowship

Those who stumble are not living in the light of God’s word. They’re not living in fellowship with God the Holy Spirit. There is no application of that truth in the life of the stumbling believer.

When you as a believer fail in the Christian life don’t expect you’ll have a great temporal life. You will not! You’ll have plenty of discipline and you’ll cause plenty of your own problems through bad decisions.

Because you have no light in you – no truth. No absolutes and you’ll fall for anything. You’ll fall for the darkness of Human Viewpoint, the darkness of relativity, humanism, or some politician who promises everything and cannot deliver.

PRINCIPLE: Only the light of Bible Doctrine in your soul can illuminate your way in the spiritual life.

John 11:9-10: “Jesus replied, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

Vs.10: “But if anyone walks during the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

The truth of God’s word in you must illuminate your path.

**Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.”**

If the plan of God is more real to you than your little or big problems in life, then here’s a promise for you.

Isaiah 40:31: “Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.”

You must live at the discretion of our Lord and in His timing and you will “gain strength” for living. That’s the secret to the Christian life.

People get weak in adversity, problems, disasters, etc. People lose it in adversity and misfortune. We run to a psychiatrist in adversity, we go to counselors, we beg people for help, most people don’t know what to do and that includes Christians.

Adversity for you, the believer, is using the spiritual life is “gaining strength”. That’s the way it always is in the Christian life. Everything humanism says is right and wrong; in the Christian life is exactly the reverse. It’s what makes it so great.

PRINCIPLE: There are no tragedies in the Plan of God for the believer. There are difficulties and adversities, there is grief and heartache, there are accidents, personal disasters, historical upheavals, but there is no tragedies for the believer in Jesus Christ.

Tragedy means there was no purpose for the event. Therefore, tragedy cannot occur in the Christian life. God has a purpose in everything that happens in your life.

If any exigency for the believer can be called a tragedy for the believer, it would indicate that God's plan is flawed and that He had no purpose for suffering.

If there are tragedies it would mean that there is something God did not foresee. That something snuck up on God or something God did not plan for. That there are circumstances of which He has no control or influence. That His timing is imperfect. That His power, love, justice, sovereignty, is lacking. IMPOSSIBLE!

When you understand that God uses all personal events and human history in general (for what purpose) to inevitably move a person or mankind to the fruition of His great plan and to victory in the Angelic Conflict and that includes the evil that man and Satan perpetrate.

These events may cause you pain and difficulty, but you need to realize that God uses all of this to work together for your good (Romans 8:28). To further your spiritual advance, to bring about God's glorification, and to fulfill His big picture plan in your life, the life of others and even history. This is the Plan of God Rational!

PRINCIPLE: There is no pain, no sorrow, or disaster, greater than the doctrine in your soul (If it's in your soul). You will always take comfort in the Plan of God Rational.

No matter what the Plan of God marches on in everything that happens to you. Keep taking in Bible Doctrine and keep applying it!!

Remember you are set apart "sanctified" in several ways. One is you are sanctified from the "vagaries" of this world. You are set apart from what this world has to offer.

As we study the Word of God, and our soul inventory increases in all of this our Lord's power is seen and the certainty of His plan being fulfilled.

Death is not the winner!! Jesus Christ has overcome death. I told you this before YOU ARE ON THE WINNING TEAM!!

Christ has power over death and if that's the case He has power over all things. He controls history and He controls your life for His purposes.

No, you have volition you have to utilize the spiritual life but through everything, through your failures and through your successes in the spiritual life God's plan comes to fruition.

So why not be a part of it rather than a drag on it. It's going to happen with or without you.

Your mission is to glorify God and be a part of the plan succeeding not failing. God will march on without you. But He's given you everything to be a success right along with His plan.

Christ's mission was to bring victory over death and to provide eternal life to those who believe in Him and to provide a spiritual life on this earth that fulfills the Plan of God.

While it also brings contentment, peace, joy, all those fruits of the Spirit that we get being filled with the Holy Spirit and metabolizing Bible Doctrine.

Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness," and by this we glorify God.

1 Peter 1:7-8: "So that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may

be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Vs.8: and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,”

Here’s the challenge: Where do you find solutions to your problems, challenges, misfortunes? Concerns about this country? Let me tell you this country cannot be fixed until we fix the spiritual problem in this nation.

In a lot of local churches, it’s a pastor problem because they have become performers instead of teachers. That’s not the case at this church! No excuse!!

Do you cherish your time here in this auditorium taking in doctrine and I include our Dorito’s who are a part of this church? Because it may not always be an option for us. It may not.

You don’t know where we’ll be in 6 months, a year, 5 years from now. Do you appreciate the time you can spend here concentrating on Bible Doctrine? To prepare you for whatever is coming up.

We need to appreciate every day what we have in the way of Bible Doctrine. We need to be here to study and grow.

Let me ask you a question. How much do you invest in your spiritual life?

PRINCIPLE: You trust God with your life, but do you trust Him with the little things in your life?

You need to be a “Truth Seekers”. Those that are interested in “truth”. Those who have not left their “first love”.

Revelation 2:4: “But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

Or those who have become “**dull of hearing**”.

Hebrews 5:11-12: “Concerning Him [Christ Jesus] we have much to say and it is hard to explain (difficult to teach) we have many doctrines to communicate and hard to explain because you have become dull of hearing.

Vs.12: For though by this time you ought to be teachers, but you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”

The writer of Hebrews is describing believers who at one point were anxious to hear the Word of God, but over time they faded away.

Positive believers who keep growing spiritually get some phenomenal assets:

James 3:2 – They are the ones who control their tongue.

Ephesians 4:13 – They are the ones who grow and mature in knowledge.

Hebrews 6:1 – They are the ones who go on to advance doctrinally.

2 Corinthians 12:9 – They are the ones whose strength is matured in weakness.

Philippians 3:15 – They are the ones who do not quit.

James 1:4 – They are the ones who are patient during times of trouble.

1 John 2:5 – They are the ones who keep Bible Doctrine in their soul.

There are many others I could share and I'm sure you have some you could add to this list as well.

You've got to have positive volition and that is a consistent attitude wherein believers make clear cut and confident decisions to study, learn and apply doctrine without allowing obstacles to get in the way.

The word positive means: 1) **to express clearly and confidently a certain action.** 2) **A motion or decision that is definite, unyielding, constant or certain in its action.**

There is a deep desire or a yearning in all believers, especially those new to the faith. Just as the physical body needs food and the soul desires stimulation, the human spirit which has been created within the believer at the moment of salvation by God the Holy Spirit, also hungers to be filled.

This desire has been placed within the believer by God. It is a very delicate and sensitive desire that can be hindered by arrogance or emotionalism, and it can ultimately be extinguished by hardness of the heart, scar tissue of the soul and an inordinate occupation with the details of life.

Unfortunately, not every believer does what is required to have this desire fulfilled. Consistent growth in the spiritual life allows the believer to become stronger and stronger with the capacity to handle the most difficult situations in life. The writer of Psalm 119 had this compelling desire even as he was being dragged into slavery.

Psalm 119:16: "I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word."

In verse 24 he again reveals his positive volition by stating, **“Thy testimonies also are my delight; They (doctrine and testimonies) are my counselors.”**

Positive volition toward Bible Doctrine is the driving desire which motivates believers to overcome all obstacles and center their life in Doctrine. It causes the believer to stay occupied with the Word of God in time of disaster. It gives him spiritual energy in time of pressure. Often the different trials and tests of life become a source of frustration for believers, and they just want to run for cover. However, the believer with positive volition can take comfort in doctrine.

The words of Jeremiah shed light on this burning desire, Jeremiah 20:9: **“But if I say, I will not mention Him or speak anymore in His name, His word is in my heart like a burning fire, shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.”**

Positive volition toward Bible doctrine is manifested by a burning fire within that cannot be quenched.

Psalm 42:1: says, **“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God.”**

The question is: Why does this desire reside in some but not in others? Well, new believers are in a state of ignorance regarding the thoughts of God; if one is receptive to doctrine, they will grow in grace and knowledge, but if indifferent and distracted, ignorance will continue because of this negative volition.

However, once the believer has had a taste of Bible doctrine, he is not satisfied with a little, he must have more.

Psalm 63:1: “O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

Because positive volition toward Doctrine is so important and determines the believer's status with God experientially, the Lord has provided everything needed to fulfill this desire:

God provides the local church as the classroom for the royal family to learn His Word.

God provides human volition as the means of integrating Doctrine into the life of the believer.

These are the provisions that God provides so that Christians may exercise their positive volition and grow in grace and knowledge. Remember, doctrine loves those who diligently seek wisdom, Proverbs 8:17: “I [doctrine] love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me, will find me.”

Loving the Lord Jesus Christ motivates us, and it compels a person to go forward in the plan of God in spite of the pressure and distractions that he faces.

All Christians have a destiny, and they learn about this destiny through the knowledge gained from the study of the Word of God.

The more you learn Bible Doctrine, the stronger your motivation to learn Bible Doctrine becomes, resulting in greater positive volition. The greater the positive volition, the more you learn about God's plan, purpose and will for your life. Positive volition toward Bible Doctrine is an active desire to know God.

Remember human solutions are no solutions. Divine solutions are the only solutions. And here's the principle, the

overruling will of God combined with the directive will of God provides numerous deliverances from adverse circumstances in your life.

Psalm 68:19-20: “Blessed be the God who daily bears our burdens, the God who is our deliverance. God is to us a God of deliverance and to God belongs escape from death.”

As we get ready to wrap up today a few final points:

1. Everyone wants to do something to make their adversity, misfortune, crisis or tragedy go away except get to Bible Class.
2. Every time you have adversity or a crisis, a misfortune, a tragedy your spiritual life is what overcomes that problem, that crisis. That’s what it’s designed to do. So, you have to use it.
3. You must learn to apply the doctrine in your soul to bad circumstances. To relax and have confidence in God’s plan.
4. Whatever happens in both life and death is for the glory of God.
5. You must learn the Faith Rest Drill if you’re going to live the Christian life to its fullest because this is where you pick up a relaxed mental attitude and you do not have to worry. (Problem Solving Device #3).

Exodus 14:13: “Moses told the people, Fear not; stand still (firm, confident, undismayed) and see the salvation of the Lord which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians you have seen today you shall never see again.”

6. Adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. Adversity is what someone or something does to you, stress is what you do to yourself. Adversity is an outside pressure in life; stress is an inside pressure of the soul.

7. There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible for you to use.

8. Remember afflictions are an opportunity to exercise your faith. It's an opportunity to demonstrate your confidence in God's plan for your life.

Psalm 34:19: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of all of them (All of them, not some of them, all of them)."

9. Trials, afflictions, misfortunes, crisis are going to come along in your life. They have to come along, this is how we grow.

1 Corinthians 10:13: "Think it not strange, these trials that you face are common to man."

10. You cannot be fearful and scared. Not you, because God's peace is expressed in confident expectation of God's plan for your life. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ said in **John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not be afraid."**

11. The Colonel wrote this in lesson #125, Series 201 on 02/02/1966:

You have forgotten the essence box! From the essence box we have the structure of all of God's promises. God is sovereign, righteous, love, eternal life, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, immutability and veracity. Most of the promises come from love, immutability and veracity. The structure of every promise that we have for time as well as eternity can be taken from some of the characteristics of the essence box. So, in this verse they have forgotten the essence box **"you forget the Lord thy maker"**. They have forgotten what God is really like. When you forget what God is really like, you become frightened. If you remember what God is really like, you can never be frightened. He is in you,

he protects you he cares for you and the Jews had it in Isaiah 41:10: “Fear thou not for I am with thee be not dismayed for I am thank God I will strengthen thee yea I will help thee yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of mine righteousness.” When you know what God is really like you're never afraid, you know that he cannot change and that he has loved you with an infinite love and that because of his character he cannot change. You know since the day you accepted Christ as savior, he does not bless you on the basis of what you do or what you do not do, he blesses you on the basis of his character, who and what he is, grace always depends on who and what God is and never who and what we are. We are not blessed because we are so lovely or we are so wonderful or so sweet and so on, we are blessed because of what he is always! No one ever earns or deserves anything from God! None of us! And we never will, that is great! This is where we get the basis for the third encouragement, the essence box. You forget, “the Lord God thy maker” The Lord **THY maker is Jesus Christ**, Colossians 1:16: “For by him were all things created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible or invisible whether they be Thrones or dominions or principalities or powers all things were created by him and for him” Jesus Christ is the maker. And if he has the power to stretch out the heavens, billions and billions of light years in space, and if he can make the universe including the earth which is mentioned here, he has the ability to handle our problems. “Casting all your cares upon him he cared for you” leave it there and you are all set. If he can make the universe, he is not going to stumble over some problem that you had!

12. You will live like a slave unless you learn to become stabilized under pressure. When you're in a hopeless situation that's when you need to think doctrinally and use the Word of God in your soul.

13. When you have the Word of God in your soul and you are growing spiritually, you can say as David did when facing Goliath, **“The battle is the Lord’s.”**

Romans 8:31: “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”

14. Remember we are to do our duty until we die, or the rapture occurs and apply what we know without fear and grow in grace!!

15. You must have a personal sense of destiny (PSD #6).

16. No matter what is going on in this our personal lives or our country we must have confidence that God is always working behind the scenes on our behalf so we will fulfill our mission, complete our duty and that means blessings for us and glory to God.

17. Remember when you focus on the problem there is fear. When you focus on the solution which is the Lord Jesus Christ there is courage.

PRINCIPLE: Remember that God’s grace and plan are greater than any circumstance you’ll ever face.

Psalm 31:24: “Be strong and let your heart take courage, All you who wait for the Lord.”

Psalm 91:4: “He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may take refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and wall.”

Psalm 27:13-14: “I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord

In the land of the living. Vs. 14: Wait (Imperative) for the Lord; Be strong (Imperative) and let your heart (Keep on letting) take courage; Yes, wait (Imperative) for the Lord.”

One final note of encouragement:

Never quit in your spiritual life: Nothing can be more truly blessed than the position of hanging in childlike dependence upon God and being entirely content to wait for His time. True it will involve trial; but the renewed mind learns some of its deepest lessons, and enjoys some of its sweetest experiences, while waiting on the Lord; and the more pressing the temptation to take ourselves out of His hands, the richer will be the blessing by leaving ourselves there. It is so exceedingly sweet to find ourselves wholly dependent upon one who finds infinite joy in blessing us. It is only those who have tasted, in any little measure, the reality of this wondrous position that can at all appreciate it. The only one who occupied it perfectly and uninterruptedly was the Lord Jesus Himself. He was ever dependent on God, and utterly rejected every proposal of the enemy to be anything else.