

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Trust God and Live

Full Transcript

Unknown Speaker
February 17, 2026

Duration: 44:43

Opening Prayer and Introduction

- 0:02 We have a guest with us today, and he's walking to his seat and he doesn't want to be pointed out. But this is my friend, Tony Reinhart, and he was gracious enough to join us on the guitar today. Thank you, Tony. He is worship pastor over at Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Some of you have been to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and you came back.
- 0:30 Amen. Hey, I'm glad to be here. God is with us, our pastor, possibly is watching on the computer in an airport in Denver, right? So there's a camera right back there, if everybody wants to turn around and wave at him, I know he'll love that. Sorry, Mike, it had to be done.
- 0:58 All right, we love it. So let's pray for him because he does not like being away from you, from us. He loves us. God has given him such a deep love for all of us and for God's church.
- 1:18 So we're going to pray for him and then we're going to dig in the scripture, okay? God, thank you for your love for us. Thank you for your word. God, if we didn't have these concrete words to encourage us and to help us as we live, oh
- 1:50 Lord, we would make up stuff. And we do. And we turn away from your thoughts to our own so often. Lord, we're not just asking for forgiveness. We're asking for correction to help us not to do that. Help us to live in Christ. So guide us today, God give us your spirit in a powerful way as you take us through your word and instruct us, help us to understand. And more than that, Lord, help us to take your word like seed and plant it in our heart, God, that it would grow and it would produce an
- 2:29 Effect in our lives, a harvest even in this world. God, have your way with us. And we do lift up our pastor, bring him home safely to us. Thank you for giving him this wonderful opportunity to serve in an honorable task of joining, of you joining together in marriage. Pray Father that you would bless that marriage. Lord, we have so much on our minds and hearts in our our tables and concerns and needs and wants and desires, today that we come in here,
- 3:10 Really with a lot of distractions, conflicts, and Lord, we're asking that you would ready our hearts to hear you.
- 3:20 God, we have grief and we lift up, we lift up this dear family, our friends. God, we miss Connie, and we thank you for her. Thank you so much for her. God, help us to serve learning from her.
- 3:41 God, we lift up those who are needing jobs or needing place. Would you provide for them?
- 3:54 But God, in all things, would you help us to turn to you and know that you're here? And we pray this in your son Jesus' name. Amen. So we're gonna look at a passage. It's one of my favorites today because it talks about how we get to live in Christ. It's an amazing, amazing thing that we're not good at. I'm certainly not good at it. but it's something we should be growing in.
- 4:29 Because when we are with Christ, we find that, well, since he's the author and perfecter of our faith, and since he's the originator of our lives, we find that when we're with him and we follow him, that we end up

in the right place at the right time doing the right things and experiencing things with the right attitudes. And that's a biggie. And our whole dispositions can change as we understand what We're really what life is about. And so we talk about things like freedom. And we talk about things like healing. And here's a quote, freedom brings healing and healing brings freedom. Let me say that again. Freedom brings healing and healing brings freedom.

Freedom Brings Healing: The Leash Illustration

- 5:15 Got that? You agree, disagree? I don't know if you, where you stand, but I brought with me today a great symbol of American freedom, right? Well, you know what I'm talking about, right?
- 5:34 It's a dog leash. Well, you were expecting a flag, right? Youth. It's a, this is the great American symbol of freedom. And when we talk about freedom and we talk about healing, freedom brings healing and healing brings freedom. You thought I was using a double E. Or you thought I was using an EA instead of double E, right? Now, you don't spell freedom that way.
- 6:04 You'll get that later. Maybe not. All right, so. Here's what I mean. Well, here's what happens. Even when I got this off the wall this morning, pulled it off the rack, my dogs did a dance. They get excited. Every time they see this in my hand, they get excited because they know we're gonna go to walk. It's quite different from the dance that you do whenever you see somebody get a leash out on you, right? Now you start the dance of retreat. I'm a mercant. I've got freedoms. I have rights. You cannot restrict me. Do I sound like you? That was my best imitation of you. My dogs, they go crazy, they go to dance.
- 6:50 They, I mean, this morning, one of them tried to force her way right out the door with me because she knew we were going on a walk. She didn't know I was going to preach a sermon or she wouldn't have been so excited. But this is a symbol of freedom. And here's why, because
- 7:08 When I put my dogs on this leash and when they heal, They're not restricted with their right by me. And they're walking with their master. So we're going to talk about that, and we're going to see that in a real powerful way in this powerful section of scripture in Galatians chapter 2. If you'd turned there with me, Galatians chapter 2 about the freedom. And we so often think it's restriction to be, oh, I got to live a certain way. I got to live in Christ. I got to be All of that Christian stuff. And I want you to see it's far different. This is freedom.
- 7:56 This is freedom. So let's read Galatians 2, I want to pick up in verse 15, where Paul writes, we are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners. So already it starts with this racial slur. Now, it really is because Paul is dealing with a group of people that are Jews and not Jews. And that's the way they see themselves. You're either Jewish or you didn't make it in.
- 8:24 Right? So Paul is pointing this out. We're Jews by birth and we're not those, and he quotes Gentile sinners. We're not those other people. Well, But here's what he's talking about. Look at verse 16. And yet, because we know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, which would have been the identifying marker for a Jew,

- 8:51 But by faith in Jesus Christ. And you can circle that word faith because we're going to talk about that at length today. What it means and what it doesn't mean Faith in Jesus Christ, even we, well, let me read that again. And yet because we know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we ourselves have believed in Christ Jesus. So he's saying even if you are Jewish by birth, this is where it counts. You've believed in Christ,
- 9:26 All right? This was so that we might be justified by faith in Christ. There's that word again. And not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no human being will be justified. We keep seeing that, right? I mean, because we can't even keep the 10 commandments. If we don't break them with our actions, we're breaking them with our hearts, right?
- 9:52 And so Paul is pointing that out. It doesn't matter who you are. We all fall into the same place. We need a savior because we cannot save ourselves. We're not able to do that. We're not able to be under the leash of the law. It's what he's saying.

Galatians 2:15-21 — Justified by Faith, Not the Law

- 10:14 But verse 17, if we ourselves are also found to be sinners while seeking to be justified by Christ, is Christ then a promoter of sin? Well, absolutely not. If I rebuild those things that I tore down, I show myself to be a lawbreaker, for through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I want to read that one again.
- 10:39 For through the law, I died to the law so that I might live for God. In other words, the principles, the laws, the 10 commandments, everything else that I've broken and failed at, that brings me to the point where I recognize I've ruined it all and so I give up on that law. That law is not gonna save me.
- 11:04 **Galatians 2:15-16**
We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners, yet because we know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we ourselves have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no human being will be justified.
- 11:17 He says, verse 20, and this is the key verse, for I have been crucified with Christ. And I no longer live, but Christ lives in me and the life I now live in the body. I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God. For if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.
- 11:47 For nothing. So let's talk then about what he is saying and some of the things that he's not saying. First of all, he says, I'm crucified. Again, a crucifixion was this horrible means of the execution. to end a person's life because of the crimes that they committed that they were found guilty of. And they would be put in a public place and they would be publicly humiliated and then painfully killed on this executionary device. It was torturous. It was horrifying to all who watched it and saw it. Nobody wanted to see that. And it was a statement by the Roman government against the whole world saying, if you do these things, you die this way.

16:37 Usually they want to walk pulling me or they find something back there and they want to stay there. But the art So you get them to walk with me. And when they do and they heal, there's no tension. They're right by their master and there's freedom because they get to go where I want to go and they get to go and experience what I want to take them to and through and they get the experience of pleasure of their master. And we walk and we see things and we smell things and we we hear things. And while those become distracting to my dog, I tend to know where I'm going and I try to be that representative of Christ who knows exactly where we're going and he wants us to be with him.

17:33 And he wants us to experience the things that he wants us to go through and to and the things he wants to use us for, but as long as we're pulling and running and yanking and sitting and And not being obedient, we don't understand the experience of freedom in Christ because we have not been crucified with Christ. And that's where we've got to stay in that pocket of that death to our sin in

18:04 Christ, that he died for our sins. And listen, that brings out gratitude. When you understand that he's taken all of your sins, You get to live a life of freedom in gratitude, not looking, saying, oh, I'm bound up by a leash, but instead I get to walk with my master. I'm going to walk with my master and that's why he goes on. He says, I'm crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, as I learned it, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me. In the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. What Paul is saying here is, I

18:49

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray. Everyone has turned to his own way. But the Lord has laid on him the iniquities of us all.

19:43 Fill me with His Holy Spirit that I can be partakers with Him in life, not of being a God, but having life through Him. You see, I died because of my sin and in my sin. And I've been crucified with Christ and with Christ. Now I get to live in this body by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself to me. And so He gives me His Holy Spirit. Let's go to Romans chapter eight. I'll show you better than I can

20:20 Speak it out by just letting you read what Paul wrote about this. Romans chapter eight. I love this chapter. If you've never memorized the chapter of Scripture, this is one you ought to consider. So Paul is saying that we get trapped up in this sin of death and we don't know how to get free from it. were chained to it instead of to Christ. And so then God does something different. And so he said that Christ Jesus is Lord who sets us free from this law of sin and death. And so then in verse one of chapter eight says, therefore there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Are you tired of being condemned?

21:03 Are you tired of shame? Are you tired of guilt? Well, listen, come to Jesus. There's freedom from that. That's what he wants to protect you from. That's what he wants to deliver you from. Verse two, because the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. And what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh. How? by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering in order that the laws requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

21:50 For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh. But those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on the things of the Spirit. Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the spirit is life and peace.

22:10 The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. It's not least to God.

Christ Lives in Me — The Holy Spirit and Romans 8

22:20 Indeed, it's unable to do so. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

22:28 See, you can live by Christ's spirit But if you don't, if you trust God and live, you will. But if you don't, you're going to not live by faith and you're going to die in so many ways.

22:50 Because I live by faith when I'm crucified with Christ, I experience his resurrection and the spirit that his Paul that goes on in Romans 8 to say, the same spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead will go live to your mortal bodies. Well now, why that's talking about after our physical bodies die, it's also talking about right now. The moment that I trust Jesus Christ and say, God, you've gotta save me, I'm in center. That moment he gives me his spirit and I am now living eternally. forever, even though my body will decay and rust and die, it really will rust because I got metal in me, all right? Even though that happens, my spirit lives on in the security of Jesus Christ and with Him.

23:38 I'm crucified with Christ. I'm raised in a new life with Christ. And so now I'm eternal in my life. And Hallelujah, that gives us so much to rejoice over with our sister Connie, right? Hallelujah. I forget who it was said on Friday. I'm jealous of her. She gets to see Jesus now,

24:07 All right? But he gives us that life. And because I live by faith, You circled that word and you saw it a whole bunch of times in that passage in Galatians. I trust him. That's what faith is. Faith is not a religion or a set of religious ideals. Faith is certainly not this defiance that we sometimes hear about like, oh, you can do all kinds of things to me, but I'm going to trust Jesus. I'm gonna do that. You'll never take away my faith.

24:48 You, you don't have that ability, first of all. Faith is given to us by Christ and it's trust. Here's what has to happen.

25:02 Little Riley's spinning around all over the house and I'm standing here holding this. And there's a clip on here. And I'm pretty fast.

25:14 But I'm not that fast. Try to snag her in the air. She has to come and sit and stay before I can finally clip in.

25:28 And then we can go on a walk. And listen, we have to trust God like that. Riley has to come and sit and trust. And she has to forget about herself, which is really hard to do. we have to forget about ourselves, which is really hard to do and sit at the feet of Jesus and say, God,

25:53 Take me. Clip into me. I need you. I can't go or need to go if I'm not clipped into you. And that means trusting him on deep levels. We trust him with hardships like death and job loss, betrayal.

26:17 Cancer. Fear. We trust Him with all of that stuff. It's not a faith where you can hurt me, but I'm going to stand up. I'll stand up for Jesus.

26:36

Romans 8:1-4

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, because the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. And what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering in order that the law's requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Faith Is Trust — The Red Sea and the Leash Clip

27:00 They both say, if he'd been here, he wouldn't have died. And Jesus says, well, I'm the resurrection and the life. If you believe in me, you'll see the glory of God. Well, I'll see Lazarus in the resurrection. Jesus is thinking, you have no idea

27:28 What's coming, what I'm gonna do. And that's the trust that God calls us to, to finally come to any of ourselves and say, okay, I'll quit running up the stairs. I'll come and I'll just trust you. I'll trust you to take me where I've got to go, where you are going. That's where I want to be.

27:52 That's that faith. Here's how it shows up. Hebrews 11, verse 29. We see in Hebrews chapter 11, you see this hall of fame, some call it the hall of faith. And it's this countdown is this roll call of all those situations where people trusted God. But we see this interesting one in verse 29 where the The people of Israel, God's people are coming out of Egypt. They're being chased by Pharaoh's army. And they find themselves up against this huge body of water, the Red Sea that they can't cross their trap. And we read this account of that history. By faith, they crossed the Red Sea as though they were on dry land. God split the waters, dried up the ground, and they started walking around.

28:48

Romans 8:5-8

For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh. But those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on the things of the Spirit. Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the spirit is life and peace. The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

29:12 And they weren't trusting God. But those who trusted God walked through on dry land. Here's the point.

29:25 *It comes down so much to trusting God to faith that you either trust Him and live or you don't trust Him and you die.*

- 29:37 Romans 14, 23 gives us another glimpse of that. Go back to Romans chapter 14. Paul says very clearly that our faith is so essential, our trust in God our willingness to let Him own us and rule us and dictate our life. is essential to everything. So they're having this argument in this church about trying to make each other conform to their own convictions. You know, like I've got these convictions, you should only buy Nissan's. And, you know, James got the conviction, no, it's gotta be Ford, gotta be Ford, American made, right? And so, we have this class in Illinois, you're not spiritual, James, you won't buy a Nissan. And I don't even know what he drives,
- 30:29 You know. It doesn't matter. They were arguing over Jewish laws, of dietary lives, what you could eat and what you couldn't. But for us, it's the same thing. I've got these convictions. You've got these convictions. Trying to make each other conform. And Paul is saying, stop it, because God is saying stop it. That's not what it's about. It's all about trusting me. You do what I tell you to do.
- 30:53 Here's how it plays out. Look at this in 14 verse 23, but whoever doubts, stands condemned if he eats because his eating is not from faith and everything, everything that is not from faith, from trusting God, everything that is not from faith is sin. And the wages of sin is what?
- 31:15 Death will all be judged according to our sin. So to trust is to serve rather than to merely claim to believe. And so whenever I put my dog on this leash,
- 31:31 If she will obey me and serve me, and I say, heal, she'll stay right there, then there's freedom. If when I let her off the leash, when we get to the big open field, I'll let her run and I throw a ball, I say, go get the ball, go get the ball. She goes and gets the ball and comes back and brings it back to me. We have a wonderful relationship.
- 32:00 If I'm obedient to Christ, If I trust him, I'll serve instead of just claiming that I believe. And I'm gonna end up serving you. And you end up serving me because we're serving Christ and he says to serve each other.
- 32:17 Here's another picture. Joshua 24. Joshua brings this to a head. Joshua followed Moses as a successor to lead God's people. They crossed the Jordan to go into the promised land and to secure it and to be obedient before the Lord. And they were just as disobedient with Joshua as they were with Moses, but he still leads them to these covenants and to say, we're gonna follow Christ and all this. And so he's at the end of his life and he knows it and they know it. And so his parting words, he leaves them with this. This is a famous passage, verse 14 of chapter 24. begins this way.

Choose Whom You Will Serve — Joshua 24 and Matthew 7

- 33:04 He says, therefore fear the Lord. Worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods, your father's worship beyond the Euphrates River in an Egypt and worship the Lord. But if it doesn't please you to worship the Lord. Well choose for yourselves today. Which will you worship the gods, your father's worship beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites and whose land you're living?

33:31 It's for me, my family, we worship the Lord. Well, the people replied, well, it was certainly not abandon the Lord to worship other gods. For the Lord our God brought us and our fathers out of the land and Egypt out of the place of slavery and performed these great signs before our eyes. He also protected us all along the way. We went and among the peoples whose lands we traveled through. The Lord drove out before us all the peoples, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will worship the Lord because He is our God.

34:06 But Joshua told the people, you'll not be able to worship the Lord because He's a holy God. He's a jealous God. He will not forgive your transgressions and sins. If you abandon the Lord and worship foreign gods, he will turn against you, harm you, and completely destroy you after he has been good to you. No, the people answered Joshua. We worship the Lord.

34:34 Joshua then told the people, your witnesses against yourselves. that you yourselves have chosen to worship the Lord. We are witnesses, they said, then get rid of the foreign gods that are among you. Turn your hearts to the Lord the God of Israel. Why did they even have those gods with them? They'd been told over and over and over and over again. They'd seen over and over and over again. The God is the only God and they must worship Him and worship Him alone. You and I have been told over and over and over again. We've said over and over and over again that God is the one true God. We will worship Him. We'll have no other gods.

35:12

Hebrews 11:29

By faith they crossed the Red Sea as though they were on dry land; when the Egyptians attempted to do this, they were drowned.

35:29 We've got to get rid of the other gods. We have to. We cannot serve two masters, Jesus said.

35:41 We'll be on one of the masters Leish, Matthew 7, Jesus makes this real clear at the end of his sermon on the Mount. He makes it clear by saying that it's not about saying, well, yeah, yeah, you know, I'm into Jesus. I really like Jesus and the things he says, those words in red, those are important to me.

36:03 You know, I serve Jesus at the church. I've always doing Christian stuff. Look at what Jesus says. In Matthew chapter 7, verses 22, he says, on that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name? And we drive out demons in your name. Do we do miracles in your name? Then Jesus says, then I will announce to them,

36:31

Romans 14:23

But whoever doubts stands condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that is not from faith is sin.

37:01 Ephesians 2, the last place we'll go today. Ephesians 2, you know, these verses, a recap of what we've kind of been through, policies, and you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you previously lived, according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the powers of the air. The Spirit now working in the disobedient. We too, all, previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts. And we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

37:48 Circle this verse, but God who is rich in mercy. Because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses, you are saved by grace. He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus, for you are saved by grace through faith that trust, dependence. And this is not from yourselves, it's God's gift. Not from works, so no one can boast.

Saved by Grace Through Faith — Ephesians 2 and the Invitation

38:46

Joshua 24:14-24

Therefore fear the Lord. Worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your fathers worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt and worship the Lord. But if it doesn't please you to worship the Lord, choose for yourselves today which will you worship... As for me and my family, we worship the Lord.

39:22 You had no say in anything. You had no ability to provide anything. Utter dependence. And you grew out of that became independent and even defiant to God say, I'll take care of myself. I'll take care of my relationships. I'll take care of things that I want to do. I want to meet my needs, my interests, my wants, my desires, my plans.

39:55 And God has been wooing you this whole way. He's done everything possible so that you can come to him. And he stands there with the clip.

40:06 Waiting for you to come to Him. I'll tell you about a friend of mine, I'll call her Annie. Annie, I've been trying to teach her about Jesus and about a relationship with Him and she

40:27 Loves the idea of Jesus, loves to know of things about Him. And several of my friends have been trying to help her know that it's more than that. But she doesn't know anything about temporary commitments. She's a wonderful person. She and her high school sweetheart have had and raised two girls. And they're learning to be successful. But she and her husband have never been married. And I'm not pointing that out to Rebuke it. I'm saying, it has kept her from understanding this. She has never had anybody stand up with her and stand in life and say, I'm committed to you for life.

41:19

Matthew 7:22-23

On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name? And we drive out demons in your name. Do we do miracles in your name? Then I will announce to them, I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers.

41:39 She doesn't understand that covenant relationship that comes, that Christ offers. And Christ waits. And maybe he's waiting for you. Maybe that's you. You've never formalized a relationship with Jesus where you have heard him because he's publicly said to you, and to Annie, I'll never leave you, I'll never forsake you. And you've never received that, you've never let Christ have you. So you don't know how to go on a walk with God. You don't know the freedom that's in you.

42:32

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you previously lived according to the ways of this world... But God who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace... For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is God's gift. Not from works, so no one can boast. For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

- 42:45 Maybe Christ has you, but man, you spend a lot of time jerking on the leash. And you don't know freedom because you never just learn to walk with the master. I watched a master once. He was so beautiful. She walked over to her dog, said, sit, dog sat. She walked over, took the clip,
- 43:07 Opened it up, closed it, and said, heal, stepped out, and walked, and the dog's right there, and the leash was dragging right behind, never clipped into the dog. That dog just wanted to be with the master. That's where you and I ought to be. wanting so much, we don't have to be clipped in, but we are. We are so much so that we want to be with Him all the time, and we want that freedom that comes just by loving Jesus.
- 43:44 I hope that's what you want for today. I know that's what He wants, and I can guarantee you that that's what He's offering you right now. Let's pray. Lord, here we are in your presence.
- 43:58 I'm so glad you're really here. And Lord, some of us have allowed you to be our Lord. You rule our lives, and you've called us to walk with you.
- 44:14 God, we're trying. But help us, Lord. Help us more and more. Lord, some here today have never, never bowed before you. They've never let you be their Lord and honor and rule over their lives. Would you change that today? God, would you call them? They would be saved. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.