

Fil-Am Community Church

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“Hells Best Kept Secret”

Good morning Fil-Am, it is so good to see so many of you here this morning, I would like all of you to try and clear your mind of all the clutter that may be there right now and try you very best to listen to the message I am going to try and deliver to you this morning. It is a sermon that was given to me by a very dear friend and I have listened to it numerous times and decided to try my best to give you the highlights of its message. The message this morning is from Pastor Ray Comfort entitled “Hells best kept secret”

Statistics will tell us that 80 to 90% of those making a commitment to Christ will fall away from the faith. Yes you heard me correctly 80 to 90 %. We will see that Jesus used a principle to reach the lost that was also used by the apostle Paul, Steven, Timothy as well as many other preachers from the past, but sad to say seems to have been forgotten by our current generation.

With that being said I don't want anything to keep you from hearing this message. I would suggest you put the pens and paper down, don't worry about the sermon notes as I will E-Mail you the entire sermon what I want you to do is try your very best to pay attention not so much to me but what the Spirit may be convicting you through this message.

When Ray Comfort began his ministry he was given access to church records and found that 80 to 90 % of converts did in fact fall away. In 1991 a poll was taken within a major denomination in the US and found that during that year within eleven and one half thousand churches there were 294,000 decisions for Christ but could only account for around 14,000 in fellowship. That means that around 280,000 could not be accounted for. This may look like a glaring mistake but is typical among the major denominations. We can look to the book of Romans and other great preachers like Spurgeon, Moody and others throughout the ages and find they used a simple truth or principle and began teaching that principle, that's what we are going to talk about today.

It says in **Psalms 19:7**, *“The Law of the Lord is perfect; restoring the soul, the testimony of the Lord is sure making the wise the simple.”*

What is perfect and actually comforts the soul? The scriptures makes it clear, it is the **LAW** of the Lord. To illustrate this for a moment let's look at Civil **LAW**, just imagine if I said to you I've got some **GOOD NEWS** for you. Someone has just paid a \$ 25,000 speeding fine on your behalf. Your natural reaction would be to say, what are you talking about? That's not good news it doesn't make sense. I don't have a \$25,000 dollar fine.

My **GOOD NEWS** wouldn't seem good news at all; in fact it would seem foolish, but more than just foolish it would seem offensive to you because I am insinuating that you broke the law when you don't think you have.

However if I put it this way it might make more sense.

On the way to a meeting, the police clocked you at going 55 MPH through an area set aside for a blind children's convention. To make matters worse there were at least five very visible signs warning you to drive at the posted speed of 15 MPH, but you went through at 55 MPH. What you did was extremely dangerous so you are about to get a \$ 25,000 dollar fine. When the law was about to take its course then someone you don't even know stepped in and paid the fine for you. You are very fortunate!

Can you see that telling you precisely what you've done wrong first actually makes the "GOOD NEWS" make sense?

If I don't bring instruction and show you that you have violated the Law then the Good news will seem foolish and even offensive. But once you understand that you have broken the law then that good news will become **GOOD NEWS** Indeed.

In the same way if I approach a sinner and say that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins it will also seem foolish and even offensive to him. It will seem foolish because it will not make sense to him.

1 Corinthians 1:18 says, *"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* It is foolish and offensive because I am insinuating that he's a sinner when he does not think he is. As far as he is concerned there are a lot of people far worse than he is.

However, if I take the time to follow in the footsteps of Jesus it may make sense to him. If I take the time to open up the

DIVINE LAW, the 10 Commandments and show the sinner precisely what he has done wrong, and that he has offended God by violating his law, then it will make more sense.

The when he becomes as James said, convicted of the **LAW** as a transgressor, then the Good News of the fine that was paid for him will not seem foolish or offensive it will contain the very Power of God unto Salvation.

Let's now look at **Romans 3:19**, *“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be closed, all the world may be accountable to God.”*

So one function of God's law is for us to stop the mouth, to stop sinners justifying themselves by saying there are plenty of people worse than me, I'm not that bad a person really.

Romans 3:20, *“Because by the works of the law no flesh will be justified in his sight, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.”*

So Gods **LAW** tells us what sin is!

1 John 3:4, *“Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness and sin is lawlessness.”*

Romans 7:7, *“What shall we say then, is the Law sin? May it never be, on the contrary I would not have come to know sin except through the law: For I would not have known about coveting if the law had not said you shall not covet.”*

Paul said I would not have known what sin was until the Law told me.

Galatians 3:24, *“Therefore the law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ so that we may be justified by faith.”*

God’s **LAW** acts as the schoolmaster to bring us to Jesus Christ, that we might be justified through faith in his Blood! The Law doesn’t help us, it just leaves us helpless! It doesn’t justify us it just leaves us guilty before a Holy God!

The tragedy of modern evangelism is because it forsook the law to convict the soul in order to drive sinners to Christ. It looked for another reason for sinners to respond to the gospel. It seemed the issue that modern evangelism chose to attract the sinners was the issue of **LIFE ENHANCEMENT**. It basically took the Good news and said, Jesus is **PEACE, JOY, LOVE, FULFILLMENT** and **LASTING HASPPINESS**.

Now we will look at an example to show this unpopular teaching, please pay attention to this illustration, **if you take nothing else away from today’s message please don’t miss the message you are about to hear.**

Two men are seated on a plane; the first man is given a parachute and told to put it on as it will improve his flight. He is a little skeptical at first because he cannot see how wearing a parachute on the plane can improve the flight. After a time he decides to experiment and see if the claim is true.

As he puts the parachute on immediately he notices the **WEIGHT** of it upon his shoulders, and he has difficulty sitting upright. But he comforts himself with the knowledge that the parachute will **IMPROVE** his **FLIGHT**, so he decides to give this

thing a little time. As he waits he starts to notice the other passengers are looking and laughing at him because he is wearing a parachute on the plane. He begins to feel **HUMILIATED** as they continue to point and laugh at him he can stand it no longer. He sinks in his seat unstraps the parachute and slings it to the floor. Disillusionment and bitterness fill his heart because as far as he is concerned he was told an outright **LIE**.

The second man is given a parachute but listen to what he is told, he is told to put it on because any moment he would be jumping 25,000 feet out of the plane. He gratefully puts the parachute on and doesn't notice the **WEIGHT** upon his shoulders nor the fact that he cannot set upright. His mind is consumed with the thought of what would happen to him if he were to Jump without that parachute.

Now let's analyze the motive and results of each passenger experienced.

The first mans motive for putting the parachute on his back solely to **IMPROVE** his **FLIGHT**. The result of the experiment was that he was humiliated by the passengers. He was disillusioned and sort of bitter to those that gave him the parachute. As far as he is concerned it will be a long time before anyone will get one of those things on his back again.

The second man put the parachute on his back solely to **ESCAPE** the jump to come and because of his knowledge of what would happen to him without it he has a deep rooted peace and joy in his heart knowing he is safe from sure death. This knowledge gives him the ability to withstand the mockery of the other

passengers and his attitude to those that gave him the parachute is heartfelt gratitude.

That's the problem it is all about the **MOTIVE**, they both have the same parachute and the same chances of survival. The modern evangelists says put on the lord Jesus Christ and he will give you **LOVE, JOY, PEACE, FULFILLMENT** and **LASTING HAPPINESS** in other words Jesus will improve your flight.

So the sinner responds and in an experimental fashion puts on Christ to see if the claim is true and what he gets is the promise of **TEMPTATION, TRIBULATION** and **PERSECUTION**, the other passengers mock and laugh at him. So what does he do, he takes off the Lord Jesus Christ. He's offended, disillusioned and somewhat embittered, and rightfully so, because he was promised **PEACE, JOY, LOVE FULFILLMENT** and **LASTING HAPPINESS**.

Saints instead of proclaiming that Jesus will improve your flight, we should be warning the passengers that they are going to have to be jumping out of the plane. Remember it is appointed a man **once to die** and after that **face the judgment**. When a sinner understands that he is breaking Gods law he will flee to the savior to be spared the wrath to come.

Can you remember why the second passenger had **JOY** and **PEACE** in his heart? It was because he knew the parachute was going to save him from sudden death. As the Apostle Paul said as a believer I have **JOY** and **PEACE** in believing because I know that the righteousness of Christ is going to deliver me from the wrath to come.

With that thought in mind let's take a look at another incident on the plane. You have a brand new stewardess who is looking to make an impression on the passengers. She is carrying a boiling pot of hot coffee, as she is walking down the aisle she trips over a passenger's foot and spills the boiling hot coffee in the lap of the second passenger.

What do you think his reaction is when the boiling hot liquid touches his skin? Does he say man that hurt? He does feel the pain, but does he rip the parachute from his shoulder and throw it to the floor and say you stupid parachute?

No Why should he? He didn't put the parachute on for a better flight, he did it to save himself from the jump to come, if anything the hot coffee incident causes him to **cling tighter** to the parachute and even look forward to the jump.

So if you and I out on the Lord Jesus Christ for the right motive to flee from the wrath to come when **TRIBULATION** comes and the flight gets bumpy we won't get angry at God, we won't lose our **JOY** and **PEACE** why should we? We didn't come to Jesus for a happy lifestyle we came to flee from the wrath that is to come and if anything **TRIBULATION** brings the true believer closer to the Lord.

The sad part is we have a multitude of believers that lose their **JOY** when the flight gets bumpy because they came lacking true **REPENTANCE** and without it you cannot be saved.

Here is the problem; the sinner cannot repent unless he knows what sin is. He may only come because he has lied or stolen from man not from God. Here is what true repentance looks like;

When David sinned with Bathsheba he broke a lot of the 10 Commandments.

- He coveted his neighbors wife
- He lived a lie
- He stole his neighbors wife
- He committed adultery
- He committed murder
- He dishonored his parents
- And thus he dishonored God

He didn't say I have sinned against man he said "*Against you and only you have I sinned.*"

When Joseph was sexually tempted with Potifers wife, he said, "*How can I do this thing and sin against God?*"

Paul preaches **REPENTANCE** toward God and the Bible says Godly **SORROW** works repentance. Man must first understand he is lost in his sin or he will never understand the **NATURE** of **SIN**.

A perfect example is just try and save a man from drowning when he doesn't know he is drowning, he will not be too happy with you. You see him swimming out in the lake and say to yourself, I think he's drowning, so you dive in and pull him to the shore without telling him, he is going to struggle and even fight you. He does not want to get saved until he sees he is in danger.

Now if you tell him there is **piranha in the water** and he is in grave danger he is far more likely to accept your help.

If you came to me and said David here is the cure to **Chronis disease**, I sold my house to raise the money and I am giving it to you as a free gift. The natural reaction would be “WHAT” the cure to what, and why do I need that, I would leave thinking man this guy is a nut.

But if you had come to me and said David you’ve got Chronis disease, I can see ten clear signs on your body and if not treated you are going to be dead within two weeks. Once I became convinced that I had a disease I would be asking what is there that I could do to treat it or cure it. Then if you said don’t worry I’ve sold my house to raise the money and here is your cure that is completely free. I am not going to despise your sacrifice **I’m going to appreciate it.**

1 Timothy 1:8 says, *“But we know that the Law is good if one uses it lawfully.”*

So Gods law is good if it is used lawfully, and for the purpose it was designed.

What was the law designed for?

The next verse 9 tells us the law is not made for a righteous person but for those who are lawless and rebellious for the ungodly and sinners. You may ask who the sinners are. It lists them in the next verse. V 10 says the immoral man, homosexuals, kidnappers, liars and whatever is **contrary to sound teaching.**

All the law does is **EXPOSE** the **SIN** in your life. Another example to help show this concept is your table in the living room needs dusting, so you dust it clean. All the dust is gone, then you pull back the curtains and let the sunlight in and what do you see? **DUST** and what do you see in the air? **DUST**. Did the light create the dust? No the light merely exposed the dust and when we take back the curtains of the Holiest of Holies and let the light of Gods law shine upon the sinners heart, he finally sees himself for what he is, a sinner that without Christ's blood is damned.

The commandments are the **LAMP** and **God's LAW** is the light!

So now you can have this conversation with a sinner. For examples sake let's put yourself in the role of the sinner and see how you would stand the light of Gods LAW. You see that God judges you by the standard of the LAW and we will be judged on the final judgment day.

When that day comes will you be found innocent or guilty? If you were honest you would say that according to the law I am guilty. Then the next question comes. **You know what it is**; you have asked yourself this question on numerous times. Now understanding the light of God **LAW** will you go to **HEAVEN** or **HELL**?

The usual answer is Heaven. Then you will be asked why will you go to heaven? Is it that because you think **God** is **GOOD** and because of that will over look your sins and then you might reply exactly.

So if you are convicted in a court of law, you have been found **GUILTY** according to the law of rape, murder or many other very serious offenses. Now the judge says you are found guilty of your crimes do you have anything to say for yourself before I pass sentence on you? You might respond yes Judge I believe you are a Good man and will look over my crimes. The Judge will probably say you are right about one thing, I am a good man and because I am I must see that justice is done.

You see the very thing that sinners are hoping will save them on the Day of Judgment; the **GOODNESS** of **GOD** will be the very thing that will condemn them. Because God is **GOOD** and thus by nature punish the wicked he must purge sin with his **Holy LAW**.

Saints we should not make light of the **LAW** it is the means to show the dust in your lives, let's look at one last illustration before we close.

Let's say for arguments sake I am a doctor and you are a patient and you have a terminal disease. I have a cure but it is absolutely essential that you are 100% **COMMITTED** for it to work. If you are not committed it will not work, so the question is how am I going to handle it?

I would say come on in and sit down. I have some very serious news for you. You have a terminal disease. I can see that it is starting to sink in as you start to shake. I think **GOOD** because now I know I have your attention and you are starting to see the seriousness of the situation. I bring out charts, X-rays and show you the poison seeping through your system. I speak to you for a

whole ten minutes about the terrible disease, so how long do you think I am going to have to talk about the cure? After all of that I simply say I have a cure. Your knowledge of the disease and horrific consequences has made you desire the cure.

The **LAW** should be used to show him the very **NATURE** of **SIN**. Modern Evangelism says never question your salvation but my Bible says the exact opposite. It says examine yourselves and see if you are in the faith, the Bible says make your calling and election sure.

Saints if you know something is wrong with your Christian walk and you lose your **JOY** and **PEACE** when the flight gets a little bumpy you need to fall on your face before a **HOLY GOD** and confess that you are a sinner and in need of **SALVATION**.

TODAY you need to readjust the motive of your commitment don't let your **PRIDE** or what people may say about you stop you. Are your tables free of **DUST**? Are you wearing your **PARACHUTTE** (*Lord Jesus Christ*) right now? Now Saints with every eye open and every head held high let me ask you a question or rather make a statement. If you want to make sure of your **SALVATION** you can call it dedication or rededication whatever you like I am going to ask you to come forward. I am not going to ask you to close your eyes and bow you head and then raise your hand in darkness.

I know some of you are thinking, he is talking to me and I would like to make sure my life is secure but what will people think or me? Saints that **PRIDE** talking. It says in **Luke 12:8-9**, ⁸ *“And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man*

will confess him also before the angels of God; ⁹ but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.”

GOD RESIST the **PROUD** and gives grace to the humble. So whatever you call it today I am asking you I am pleading with you, the plane will not make it to its final destination, do you have your **PARACHUTE** on? Don't leave here today unsure! **Don't leave here today without putting on the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Let us pray.....