

THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD Ministries

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#### **Shipwrecked Faith**

A ship was wrecked during a storm at sea and only two of the men on it were able to swim to a small, desert-like island. The two survivors, not knowing what else to do, agreed that they had no other recourse but to pray to God. However, to find out whose prayer was more powerful, they agreed to divide the territory between them and stay on opposite sides of the island. The first thing they prayed for was food. The next morning, the first man saw a fruit-bearing tree on his side of the land, and he was able to eat its fruit. The other man's parcel of land remained barren.

After a week, the first man was lonely and he decided to pray for a wife. The next day, another ship wrecked nearby, and the only survivor was a woman who swam to his side of the island. On the other side of the island, there was nothing. Eventually the first man decided to pray for clothes and more food. The next day, all of these were given to him as the belongings from yet another ship-wreck were washed ashore. However, the second man still had nothing.

Finally, the first man prayed for a ship, so that he and his wife could leave the island. In the morning, he found that overnight a ship had anchored on his side of the island. The first man was welcomed aboard the ship along with his wife and he decided to say nothing of the other man, but instead leave him on the island. He considered the other man unworthy to receive God's blessings since obviously none of his prayers had been answered...

As the ship was about to leave, the first man heard a Voice booming, "Why are you leaving your companion on the island?" "My blessings are mine alone, since I was the one who prayed for them," the first man answered. "His prayers were all unanswered and so he does not deserve any-thing." "You are gravely mistaken!" the Voice rebuked him. "He had only one prayer, and I answered it. If it were not for his prayers, you would not have received any of MY blessings." "Tell me," the first man asked, "what did he pray for that I should owe him anything?" "He prayed that all your prayers would be answered."





**Cousin Leroy** 

Junior was sitting on Leroy's lap when he looked up at him and said, "Tell me a story of when you was a kid Pappy." Leroy was more than happy to do so and said, "Well son, my Pappy used to sit in a rocking chair. He had a padded chair, but didn't use it because it wasn't comfortable enough. So one night he tried putting some extra stuffing in it, to see if that would make it sit better. While he was doing that, my Ma was rummaging around in the closet and knocked over a box of marbles. That is forever stuck in my mind as the night my Pappy was off his rocker and Ma lost her marbles.

#### **How Babies Are Made**

Eight-year-old Susie came home from school and informed her mother that today in class they had learned how to make babies. The mother, rather shaken by the development, called the teacher to complain. After listening to the mother complain for a few minutes, the teacher responded, "Did you ask her to explain how it is done?" "No," said the mother. "Then ask her and call me back," replied the teacher. "So how DO you make babies?" the mother asked her daughter. Susie responded, "You drop the 'v' and add 'ies.'"

#### Help Me Remember

Two men were chatting in the living room while their wives were in the kitchen. One of the men was telling the other about this wonderful restaurant he and his wife had visited a few days earlier. "Wow, sounds great! What's the name of it?" "Hmm, what was it? Dear me, I'm having a hard time remembering. Oh, what's that flower with the pink blossom and thorns on the stem?" "You mean a rose?" "Yeah, that's it." Then looking over his shoulder he shouted, "Hey Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to the other night?"

#### CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Its from our church ... we've been called up for active duty."

#### Laundry Challenged

One day a housework-challenged husband decided to wash his sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to his wife, "What setting do I use on the washing machine?" "It depends," she replied. "What does it say on your shirt?" He yelled back, "DENVER **BRONCOS.**"

#### Shipwrecked

A man was stranded on a deserted Pacific island for years all by himself. Finally one day a boat comes sailing into view, and the man frantically waves and draws the skipper's attention. The boat comes near the island and the sailor gets out and greets the stranded man. After awhile the sailor asks, "What are those three huts you have here?" "Well, that's my house there." "What's that next hut?" asks the sailor. "I built that hut to be my church." "What about the other hut?" "Oh, that's where I used to go to church."

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# <u>The Dash</u>

Pastor Billy R Douglas

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. James 4:14

We did not choose our date of birth, and we are appointed a time to die. None of us know how much time we have between the two. When they chisel our name in stone, between those dates will be a little dash. That dash represents our life, our time on earth. It is of utmost importance what we do with that time. Did we live for Jesus and tell others of his great sacrifice and love? There is nothing more important than that. Social status, wealth, fame and worldly possessions we will leave behind. The most important thing is our relationship with Jesus...that is an eternal treasure!

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Psalms 90:12

"For it matters not, how much we own, the cars... the house... the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash." (Linda Ellis)

I looked upon a stone one day, and read the writing there

The name, the date of birth and death, someone had carved with care

And as I thought about this one, who lay beneath the ground

The thing I pondered on the most, was that little dash I found

That dash between the day he passed, and his happy day of birth

It stood for all the time he spent, and how he lived on earth

And as I walked away I thought, not on his status, fame or cash

The thing I wondered most of all, is how did this man spend his dash?

Written by Billy R Douglas

Until next time may the LORD bless and keep you, Pastor Billy R Douglas

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:20-21

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# **THE TRUMPET**

### A Word to the Wise – Communism: A Path to Avoid

Pastor Steven Huston

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Proverbs 1:10

Solomon, with great concern for the young, points to the fear of the Lord as something we cling to, so that we might garner wisdom and knowledge. Now, he warns the young to avoid the enticement and snares of the sinner. Bad company leads to bad results. How fitting that in our nation today, the young seem so taken with Communism. It gives empty promises of fulfillment; when the rain comes, those promises vanish like cotton candy – that's vanity.

While the verses in Proverbs 1:10-19 are not specifically about Communism, they give a fair description of what Communism is and for what it stands. Communism is like other anti-Christ systems, simply meaning it stands against and attacks Christ and His divine Body, the Church. It's a system that "lurks privily for the innocent," inventing a cause. They promise substance but only those in charge get the benefit. They promise "one purse," but they alone hold the strings. Solomon warns us with wisdom to not join them, to keep our feet out of their path because "their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood." Dear Reader, it is the blood of the ordinary man, particularly the blood of the Christian that they desire to shed. Never forget the vast evil that is in sin. Take the Word of God to heart, apply it to your life, and rest in its eternal safety.

David Adeney, author and missionary to China, warns, "It would be a great mistake to regard Communism merely as a political system. Communism is not only a religion, but it is also a dynamic missionary movement aspiring to the conquest of the whole world... Communism attempts to provide a substitute not only for Chrsitian doctrine and experience but also for many of the methods and activities used in the church. Indeed, Communists have often adapted Christian methods and have proved themselves to be more thorough and efficient in using them than the Christians from whom they were borrowed."

Communism tried has only led to national devastation and Christian persecution; it has never been successful anywhere. Andrew Gih is the author of the book The Church Behind the Bamboo Curtain. Asia Harvest wrote the following in their November 2021newsletter: With a form of Communism rising in many Western nations today, Christians would do well to take heed of Andrew Gih's warnings. He wrote the following observations and comparison between Communism and Christianity:

"Since they have to maintain large standing armies, concentration camps are a necessity—politically to silence the opposition by taking people away after midnight, sending them to concentration camps, so their families do not hear from them. They arrest so many that they instill fear into the minds of the people, so there is no opposition or rebellion. "Communist countries are not for commerce or trade. Their aim is always political.... Communism is against human nature. It cannot stay in power except by brute force. So, in Communist countries the people not only have no freedom, but they constantly live in fear." The following comparison is also given. Church, do not be deceived; take heed; watch and pray!

#### COMMUNISM vs CHRISTIANITY—A COMPARISON

Communism is materialistic; Christianity is spiritual. Communism is godless; Christianity is God-centered.

Communism is God-hating; Christianity is God-loving. Communism is God-defying and blasphemous; Christianity is God-honoring. Communism divides people into classes. Christianity unites people in Christ. Communism pulls down the higher classes; Christianity lifts up the lower classes. Communism spreads hatred and strife; Christianity spreads love and peace. Communism aims for a classless society; Christianity says, 'Thy kingdom come.' Communism sheds blood for revolution; Christ shed His Blood for salvation.

Think of our beginning verse, why would sinners entice thee? Because they have no desire to go to hell alone (Rom. 1:32). May each of us have an even stronger compelling not go to heaven alone. Convert them with the strength of the Law and the grace of the Gospel. Remind them that one day they will stand before the Judge of all the earth, giving an answer for what they've done in this life.

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### Where Are You Rooted?

Pastor Steven Huston

"Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Col. 2:7-8

The soil a plant is rooted in determines the stability of the roots and the quality of fruit that it produces. Environment certainly plays a role, but the richness of the soil and the tender care of the gardener regarding those roots are major determining factors. The same is true for how we raise our children and, more importantly, where we root ourselves. Where are you rooted; from where are you getting your nutrition and stability?

Paul gives us three possibilities: rooted in Jesus Christ, rooted in the church ("…traditions of men"), or rooted in the world. Paul encourages the church of Colossae, and us, to be rooted and built up – established – in Jesus. He then explains why. Christians should know better than to be rooted in the world; yet many are unconsciously and syner-gistically trying to root themselves in both, corrupting their roots. The greater warning is to not be rooted in the church, as opposed to being rooted in Christ – the warning is that although they ought to be the same, they are not the same thing. As we've watch churches go astray from the Word of God, faster and farther recently, we've watched congregations full of good people follow the church as it leaves the safety, shelter, and truth of Scripture. Such are leaving Christ. If you are rooted in Christ, you will go wherever He goes; if you are rooted in the church, you will go wherever it goes. If you are rooted in Jesus but the church, for whatever reason, follows the world or departs from the Gospel, you will stay with Jesus while the church follows a path to destruction. If you are rooted in the church and it departs from Christ, you will also, unwittingly and without discernment, follow the church's departure from its Sacred Head. You will be spoiled, taken like captured treasure.

Do you think that's too harsh a statement? An unnecessary warning? Can I remind you that Jesus' final words to the church were repent, as He warned various churches in Revelation? One had lost their first love; another mixed worldly doctrine with Christ's holy doctrine, thereby becoming impure; yet another, having no discernment for the things of God, believed they were rich and healthy when Christ warned that they were poor and sick. These name only a few, but the simple fact is that there were those who were rooted in the church while believing they were rooted in Christ. Jesus is saying to them, BEWARE! REPENT! There is a sickness in you; turn away from the wrong and turn back to me! Be rooted and built up IN ME!

I am NOT saying there was nothing good in those, or our, churches; Jesus also pointed out that there was good in them. BUT HE GAVE A WARNING to those churches that their wrong would be their ruin; they MUST repent or be lost. We've watched our culture grow to hate the Word of God and those who hold it as their standard. We've watched the church chase after the culture, moving away from its rooting in Jesus, in order to be seen as relevant, to be seen as knowledgeable or wise, or to be seen as loving or kind. Whatever the reason, as it leaves its first love of Christ and His Word, we've begun to see the unfaithful church attack those who remain faithful to the Word. In such circumstances we must hold fast to our faith; we must be rooted steadfastly in Christ.

Even if every church in our nation were to move with the LGBTQ+ crowd, we must stay rooted in Christ. No matter how many churches and Christians proclaim that abortion or euthanasia are loving solutions, we must stand firm in Christ. When majorities of denominations or individual Christians cling to communistic principles that deny God's goodness, abilities, truths, and even existence, we must remain steadfast, crying out that we have no king but Jesus; we have no sovereign but God; and there is no truth but the Scriptures given to us by His Spirit. When all the world denies that God is the Creator and that He made man perfect; when they say that artificial intelligence is the wave of the future and that we must combine with it for the next phase of evolution or become subservient nothings, we must cling to Christ, trust His Word, hold on to our humanity, and depend on God's perfect timing and will. All of this to say, we must be rooted in Christ; He alone is the unshifting sand of time and eternity. He alone is stable and stabilizing. The world will fall away; the church may fall away; but Christ and His Word are sure. He is our anchor, our defense, our salvation from everlasting to everlasting – we MUST be rooted IN HIM!

Pastor Steven Huston 103 N. Division Ave. Frem`ont, Michigan 49412 www.podomatic.com/podcasts/pohl

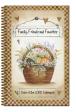




#### Baked Spaghetti

1 lb of ground beef
1 jar of spaghetti sauce
8 oz of cream cheese
¼ cup sour cream
1 cup cottage cheese
½ cup butter (1 stick)
1 pkg spaghetti 16 oz
Shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat your oven to 350°. Boil your spaghetti noodles until al dente (firm). Drain and set aside until ready to assemble. Combine the cream cheese, sour cream and cottage cheese until well blended. Brown your hamburger and when done, drain well. Combine the hamburger with your spaghetti sauce. Put a few slices of butter into a 9x13 pan then pour half of your spaghetti noodles on top. Take your cream cheese mixture and pour on top of the noodles. Spread well over noodles. Pour the rest of the noodles on top of the cream cheese mixture. Put a few more slices of butter on top of the noodles. Pour your spaghetti and meat sauce on top of your noodles. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, pour the desired amount of shredded cheese on top and return to the oven for 15 minutes to allow cheese to melt.



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#### No Bake Oreo Cake

1 (15 oz.) package Oreos, crushed 6 T. butter, melted

1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, softened

1 c. confectioners' sugar

1 large (5.1 oz.) box instant chocolate pudding\* + milk to prepare, as specified on the pudding package

1 large (16 oz.) container Cool Whip

Set aside about 1/4 cup crushed Oreos. Mix remaining crushed Oreos with the melted butter. Press into the bottom of a 9x13" pan. Combine cream cheese and confectioners' sugar; mix well. Fold in 1/2 of the Cool Whip until well combined. Spread the cream cheese mixture over the crushed Oreo layer. Chill for 20 minutes. Prepare chocolate pudding according to package directions. Spread over cream cheese layer. Chill for 20 minutes Spread remaining Cool Whip over the pudding layer. Sprinkle reserved crushed Oreos on top. Chill for 8 hours or overnight before serving.

#### **Baked Macaroni and Cheese**

1 (12 ounce) package macaroni 2 cups milk

1 egg

 $2\frac{1}{2}$  cups shredded Cheddar cheese

2 tablespoons butter, melted

salt and pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 2quart baking dish. Boil macaroni in a large pot of salted water until barely done, about 5 minutes. Drain and set aside. Whisk together milk and egg in a large bowl. Stir in cheese and butter. Place par-boiled macaroni in the prepared baking dish. Pour milk mixture over macaroni, season with salt and pepper, and stir until combined. Press mixture evenly into the baking dish. Bake, uncovered, in the preheated oven until top is browned, 30 to 40 minutes

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## Need An Extreme Makeover?

George Whitten

And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Psalms 90:17

Charles William Eliot, former president of Harvard University, had a birthmark on his face that bothered him greatly. As a young man, he was told that surgeons could do nothing to remove it. Someone described that moment as "the dark hour of his soul." Eliot's mother gave him this helpful advice: "My son, it is not possible for you to get rid of that hardship...But it is possible for you, with God's help, to grow a mind and soul so big that people will forget to look at your face."

Yes, it's true. All of us have things we'd love to change about ourselves. And many of us tend to spend an awful lot of time and money trying to change, fix and cover those things up. But I think there is much truth in Mrs. Eliot's words. When we are shining boldly for the Lord, I don't believe anyone sees them!

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## His Plan For Me

by Martha Snell Nicholson

When I stand at the judgment seat of Christ, And He shows me His plan for me, The plan of my life as it might have been, Had He had His way, and I see

How I blocked Him here, and I checked Him there, And I would not yield my will – Will there be grief in my Saviour's eyes, Grief, though He loves me still?

He would have me rich, and I stand there poor, Stripped of all but His grace, While memory runs like a hunted thing Down the paths I cannot retrace.

Then my desolate heart will well-nigh break With the tears that I cannot shed; I shall over my face with my empty hands, I shall bow my uncrowned head...

Lord, of the years that are left to me, I give them to Thy hand; Take me and break me, mould me to The pattern Thou hast planned! 1



## CORRUPTED BY CONSTANT EXPOSURE

by Duane Maxey

A Parisian lady in London was a teacher of languages. She had acquired a large clientele because of her beautiful French and correct pronunciation. However, after months of teaching and constant mixing with those speaking English, Scotch, and Irish, she discovered that her French pro-

nunciation was becoming less correct. Then, realizing the danger of her French speaking becoming corrupted, she began going back from London to Paris each week-end, so that by mixing again with fluent Parisians, she retained the brightness and exactness of the French language.

Above, is a good illustration of the danger there is to Christians who mingle constantly among unsaved and worldly people. The Spirit of God can and does keep conscientious Christians from backsliding, but because of this constant exposure in the work-day world, David's prayer in Psalm 28:1 should be the cry of every earnest soul who must spend much time among worldlings on the job: "Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I BECOME LIKE THEM THAT GO DOWN INTO THE PIT."

Christians exposed constantly on the job in the work-day world to the language, remarks, and examples of those who are headed for Hell, need to frequently and constantly HEAR FROM HEAVEN, lest as a result of that wicked influence, THEY BECOME LIKE THEM!

In closing, sadly, it should be apparent to ALL that those who profess to be Christians but who want to be like those going down to the pit, are already part of that crowd! It is now long past time for many such professing Christians to repent, get truly saved, and "come out from among them" who obviously are not taking the Narrow Way Home.

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## The Precious Blood Of Jesus

Pastor Mike Vaughn

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 1 Peter 1:18-19

In First Peter the blood of Christ is called precious. The word precious means "valuable". In the Old Testament the blood of animals was used to atone for the sins of the people. Each animal had a specific value. The value of the life corresponds to the life that was in it. The life of a sheep or goat was of less value than the life of an ox. Therefore the blood of a sheep or goat in an offering was of less value than the blood of an ox.

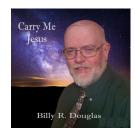
But what about the value of the life of a man? It is more valuable than many sheep or oxen. And who can tell the value of the blood Jesus? In that blood, dwelt the life of the Holy Son of God.

Silver or Gold was not a sufficient price to redeem us. It would have done no good if I would have shed my blood, nor any other human. Only the sinless, spotless blood of Jesus could pay our sin debt. Ephesians 1:7bNLT says, "He[God] purchased our freedom with the blood of his son and forgave our sins." It's the precious blood of Jesus that gave us freedom from sin and eternal death.

You are loved with an everlasting Love., Pastor Mike www.mvmgoodnews.com P.O. Box 550 Tickfaw, LA 70466

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#### **By Sister Michelle Deuling**

**Verse for Today:** Matthew 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

Additional Passages for Today: Mark 12:43-44; 1 John 3:17-19; John 7:16-18; Matt. 6:5; Matt. 23:5

**Thought for Today:** Doing the right thing for the wrong reason doesn't make things right. When we do good things to make ourselves look good, God says that is all the reward we will receive.

Story for Today: Cammy picked out her favorite doll and lovingly wrapped her in the prettiest blanket she could find. Today this gift was going to church with her. Ms. Less had reminded the class that they would be packing boxes to send overseas to the missionary families after class today. Roxey had bragged that she would be bringing lots of toys and other things to fill the boxes. When Ms. Less first mentioned the project it seemed like everyone in the class was excited to participate. Suggestions were made of items that would be helpful and items that would not be able to be sent. Several of the kids had brought in little items each week and put them in the box. But this was the last week and everyone that brought their gift today would be part of the parade at church. They would march to the front of the church and deposit the items in the boxes in front of the altar. Everyone would see them. Roxey hadn't brought in the promised items yet and Cammy guessed it was because she was saving them all for today. Bringing in her best doll would show Roxey. She may not have lots of toys and things but her doll was the best doll she had ever known. Cammy couldn't wait to march up the aisle to put her gift in the box. Danielle was so excited; every week she had found a little something that she thought someone her age would like. She had brought in coloring books, crayons, and a couple of books that had great lessons that she had enjoyed reading. Her mom had helped her make some doll clothes and a couple of sun dresses too. Today she had the last of her gifts and while it wasn't much, she hoped someone would appreciate it. Today she was bringing in a couple of matchbox cars. Her dad had said he liked to play with them when he was little. When she got to the classroom Ms. Less was just carrying the empty boxes up the stairs to the sanctuary. Danielle quickly put her donation in the already full box and began helping Ms. Less. When it was time for the kids to line up for the parade, Ms. Less explained that those who hadn't already put their items in the box would be able to do so in front of everyone. Roxey and Cammy rushed to the front of the line. Roxey had a bag with several items and Cammy clutched her precious doll close as she thought about how everyone would see what a great gift she was giving. The congregation was singing a song as the procession made its way to the front of the church. Many of the parents looked on with pride at the youngsters placing items in the box. Some of the kids didn't have a gift, so they just walked by the boxes as the line moved along. After the last person put their gift in the box, the congregation began to clap their hands as they showed appreciation for all the gifts that were collected that day. But as the applause faded, so did the smile on Cammy's face. Her arms were empty and so was her heart.

**Questions for Today:** When you give, do you make sure someone knows? Do you give to meet the expectations of others or do you give to please God? Do you feel empty after the gift has been given? If so, maybe you need to reevaluate why you are giving.

**Prayer for Today:** Dear Heavenly Father, In James You say that every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights... Thank You for allowing us to be a messenger of the good gifts You give. Help us to give out of a pure heart and without hypocrisy. Help us to remember that we seek a Heavenly reward that is much better than the applause of man. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

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#### **God's Simple Plan of Salvation**

My Friend: we are about to ask you the most important question of your life. Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer. The question is: Are you saved? Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal LORD and Saviour? It is not a question of how good you are, nor if you are a church member, but have you put your faith in Jesus? Are you sure you will go to Heaven when you die? The Bible makes the plan of salvation plain and simple. *Romans 10:13 says For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* Call on Jesus today. <u>Put your faith and trust in him and ask him to forgive you of your sins and to be your LORD and savior and you will be born again...SAVED!!</u> Do this today, tomorrow may be to late! Please write or call us if you have made the decision to accept Jesus.



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# VOTL Tabernacle 216 Hill St. Livermore, KY *Services* Sunday Morning Service 11 AM Everyone Welcome

Submit your Prayer Request to: Voice of the LORD Ministries P.O. Box 541 - Livermore, KY 42352 Phone: 270-313-8753 Email: voiceofthelordministries@juno.com