

## Hebrews 11-12:3 Lecture

We are now on the 5th of the 6 lessons covering the Epistle to the Hebrews. As you have read and found in your homework, the emphasis of today's lesson is on **faith**. The reading presents some of the key figures in Biblical history – putting them in what many commentators call the “Hall of Faith”. Faith is a journey, and my objective today is to take each of you on a journey. Our adventure begins with the following verses:

*Matthew 24:9: “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.”*

*Luke 6:22: “Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man’s sake.”*

*John 15:20: “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.”*

*Luke 21:17: “And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake.”*

You're probably thinking after hearing these, '*If this is the beginning, I'm not sure I want to see the end!*' You might also be thinking it's a good thing I'm not pinning my future living on evangelism, right? These are pretty blunt and rough statements coming from Jesus **Himself**. We don't normally hear these verses when we hear sermons that are focused on bringing the non-believer to faith in Jesus do we? Those sermons typically emphasize the blessings from being forgiven from all past, present, and future sins, becoming a child of God, and being born again as a new creation with the hope of living in eternity with God. These are all wonderful and

absolute truths of coming to faith in Jesus, but the verses you're seeing here on the screen is **every bit** as true than the truths I just recited.

Because I didn't come to faith in Jesus until I was 35, I often approach Scriptures as not just from the perspective as a believer but also from a non-believer's viewpoint. Therefore, as I look at these verses on the screen – especially with the understanding they're coming from Jesus - I find myself asking the question, '*Why would anyone want to come to faith in a God that promises hatred and persecution?*' It's a **very good** question – and it is one that is **not just** for the non-believer. The **sane** person must come to the conclusion that if these promises of hatred and persecution are true, then the **only** way that someone would come to faith in a God with **these** assurances is there must be something so incredibly good and wonderful that far outweighs this apparently bad news. Lin shared it in her lecture last week, and I give you one of my favorite verses in the Bible - Romans 8:18, "*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*"

Isn't that a great verse? What is this "glory that will be revealed in us"? Well, our journey is going to take us there. The core message of Romans 8:18 is **hope**. What is it that sustains us through the dark and tough times of life? – Hope. Biblical hope is not some Polyannish, dimpled-cheek '*everything is going to be ok*' or clicking your ruby slippers three times and wait for the wizard to grant your wish. Biblical hope is **real**, and it is **certain**. Today's opening verse marries the concepts of faith and hope, "*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*" Biblical faith and hope come with strong statements such as '**confidence**' and '**assurance**'. There is nothing weak or empty-minded about Biblical faith and hope.

What is the first thing that the writer tells us we understand by faith? “*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command.*” This makes sense, what’s the first verse in the Bible? “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*” If you’re going to start with a discussion about faith, you might as well start at the beginning, right? But the writer adds something onto the end of this faith statement of creation, “*so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*” Why would the writer add that? What do we know about God from the Bible? –He is spirit, and we can’t see Him. Doesn’t that frustrate you sometimes? Don’t you wish He would just appear once and say “*Here I am to save the day!!?*”

Well, God is no mouse, but He *is* mighty, and He *did* save the day. He saved you and me. He sent His Son to die on a cross to save us from the eternal judgment of our sins. What did Jesus say about the Father? John 6:46, “*No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.*” If we can’t see Him, how can we know He’s there? Where’s the proof? Listen to what Romans 1:20 says, “*For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*”

What would you say is the greatest evidence of God’s creative force? The universe? Nature? Those are great examples. What about humanity? When God created the world, what was His assessment of His work every step of the way up until He created man? “*It was good!*” What was God’s assessment of His creation after He created man? “*It was very good!*” Humanity, in its original design, is God’s masterpiece. But we’re not in our original design are we? What changed? –Sin. From the fall in the Garden of Eden, humanity has been deteriorating ever since. Anyone disagree with that? Life spans have been growing shorter, diseases are increasing like wildfires, evil is running more and more rampant, and morality is disintegrating.

The greatest evidence of God's existence, to me, is a **changed heart** – a changed **life** – a fully forgiven, redeemed, and restored human. God reveals Himself not just in His **ability** to forgive, redeem, and restore what was lost, but, arguably, even more so that He would even **want** to! I won't speak for any of you, but I have often wondered why God puts up with me at all. Carol said in her most recent lecture that we could get to the point where we wouldn't sin for several consecutive days! I don't know about you but it's a good day if I have gone consecutive **minutes** without sin!! One of the more remarkable Scriptures to me is Romans 5:8: "*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*"

Think about the person who annoys you the most or you simply don't like. Maybe it's an ex-spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend; maybe it's your current spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend! – I hope not! Whoever it is, the point I'm trying to get you to consider is would you sacrifice your life for that person to save him/her from destruction? If we're honest, the answer is probably "*no*". Thankfully, that is **not** what the Son of God said. What did He say to those who had demanded Him to be crucified and were mocking Him on the cross? - "*Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing!*" Could you say that to the annoying or disliked person? I doubt I could.

Jesus responded to Phillip's request to show the apostles the Father by saying, "*He who has seen me has seen the Father.*" What am I getting at with all of this? - The character of God – the character of God is not to condemn and judge, it is to redeem and restore – even when we're sinning. In my opinion, the greatest evidence of God and His character is found in His love, and there is no greater evidence of God's love than that of His Son dying on a cross for our sins.

So, by faith, we first understand about God that He is the **Creator**. What else do we learn that comes with faith? '**Sacrifice**' when verses 4-5 talk about Abel. A

centerpiece of faith in God is sacrifice. As it always is with God, He never asks us to do something that He doesn't first demonstrate His willingness and ability to do Himself. The most obvious example of sacrifice when it comes to God is Jesus, right? What sacrifice does our faith require? Remember the initial verses I put up at the beginning of the lecture? If we're going to boldly live out our faith, we're going to get persecuted and people are going to hate us. The Christian faith, which is rooted in goodness, is at odds with a Satan-run world, which is rooted in evil. If you're going to remain faithful to Jesus, your alliance to Him will no doubt sacrifice your image in how a Christ-rejecting world views you.

In verse 5 we hear about Enoch being taken up – or raptured. Why? – Because his testimony was that of a man of faith – accompanying that testimony is that he pleased god. Hebrews 11:6 is a monumental verse, "*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*" When you step back from this verse, it makes so much sense. What is one of the worst pains a human can experience? I would argue loneliness. Thinking that nobody cares for you, much less even knows you exist, is a terrible and hurtful place to be. However, when someone does approach you and demonstrates his/her desire to know you, it feels pretty good, right? The more that person chooses to get to know you, chances are the more effort you're going to put into developing the relationship.

That's what this verse is getting at. God is not lonely, but He does crave your fellowship – it's the reason you were created. Now that may sound selfish – you were created to please God. However, you can only label this purpose selfish if you look at a relationship with God as one-sided – you're just put on earth to perform and do good things to make God happy. That's the lie. A relationship with God is not one-sided – it is very much a two-way relationship. God is pleased with you merely because you are His creation – not because of what you think you have to do to make

Him pleased. God loves you for who you are right now – simply because you have faith – because you believe that He exists. The better news is He promises to reward you if you choose to spend more time getting to know Him. Keep that in mind when I get to my conclusion.

In Noah and Abraham we learn of another important component of faith – **obedience**. If you’re going to claim to believe or have faith in someone, then there’s no greater way to demonstrate that belief and faith to yourself and the outside world than by doing what is required of that person you pledged your faith. This makes sense, doesn’t it? What does Jesus command us to do? – To love God and to love others – that’s it. Our obedience to our faith in God is proven by the love we show to Him and to others.

The apostle John has something to say about the linking of our obedience to love to our faith in 1 John 4:20, “*Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.*” In other words, if we do not love others – obeying what the One Whom we claim to believe in commands – then we really don’t have faith.

What did we learn by faith through Sarah? – It brings ***new life***. Despite everything that the flesh tells us – the impossibility of a situation, God tells us something different – He tells us the truth. God is not about death and destruction. God is about giving life, and, by faith, Sarah brought new life into the world – her son Isaac. Speaking of Isaac, what did we learn about him in his faith? - Obedience and sacrifice. By the time we get to the scene of Abraham taking Isaac and going up to Mount Mariah to sacrifice Isaac, Isaac is probably close to 30 years old – Abraham is around 130 years old. Isaac could have easily overpowered Abraham, but he didn’t – he, along with his father, shared another vital component of faith – **trust**.

Verse 19 reveals something new from the Old Testament story of Abraham sacrificing Isaac – which he concluded that God would be able to raise Isaac from the dead in order for Him to fulfill His covenant – to make his descendants like the sands of the sea and ultimately raise up the Messiah. Abraham trusted in God’s Word – His promises - so much that He was willing to sacrifice the only possible way He could see God being able to fulfill those promises. That is extraordinary faith, and extraordinary faith involves unwavering trust in God’s Word. That is why it is so important we saturate ourselves in God’s Word – the Devil is going to do to us what he has been doing since he first came on the scene – to bring doubt and deception upon God’s Word. ***Real faith and trust are inseparable.***

What did we learn about faith from Moses? Some of the same things that we’ve seen from the other Hall of Faith members – sacrifice in not agreeing to be called part of Pharaoh’s family. We saw obedience in how he kept the Passover. We also saw trust in God by leading the Nation of Israel through the Red Sea. What did we learn about the character of Moses in Numbers 12:3? - We’re told he was very humble – more than any other on the face of the earth. Do you remember the conversation he had with God over who was going to do the talking with Pharaoh? He kept resisting God’s instructions so much, that he made the Lord angry. If God respects the humble, why would he get angry at Moses who was coming from a humble place in resisting being the lead guy in dealing with Pharaoh?

Moses was relying on ***his*** ability to do what God was asking him to do. That’s not the way it works in the Christian faith – God **NEVER** asks us to do something for Him that He doesn’t give us the ability to do. There’s a good saying “*When we do what we can, God will do what we can’t.*” What God was angry about was Moses didn’t get that God would give him what he needed to accomplish His purposes. Moses finally figured this out, and he developed another important component of faith - **power**.

What did we learn about faith from the story of the walls of Jericho and the likes of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, and David? There is victory in faith. Our reading reminds us of the story about Jericho – the people had to march around the walls of Jericho 7 days and then they simply had to do what? – Shout! The walls came down, and they gained the victory. With Gideon, God paired down his army to 300 and still won the victory over the countless number of Midianites and Amalekites. And we all know what David did to Goliath. The Christian faith always brings with it victory. We need to remember it is not us who gains the victory – it is God. Jesus won the victory for our souls on the cross.

Candidly, victory by faith can look very different – but it is no less a victory. This is highlighted by what the writer offers as two paths of faith. The first one is presented in verses 33-34, “*who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.*” Well that sounds pretty awesome, doesn’t it? Those kinds of results are certainly great advertisements for faith aren’t they?

But that is just one of the two paths of the Christian faith – there is another path, and it is described in verses 35b-38, “*There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.*” Uh...., I’ll take the first path, how about you?

What do you think about the truthfulness of the prosperity doctrine now? Those that support such a doctrine are taking it from 1<sup>st</sup> Balognians. Yes, God can bless you

with great fleshly things, but He does NOT guaranty it. Clearly, there is another biblical path of faith, but it ends up at the same place as the one that is lined with victory. Why does God do it this way? I'm not God, so I don't know for sure. I do, though, have a theory, which I will share with you in my conclusion.

Our reading concludes with the analogy of the Christian faith being a race. It is NOT a sprint – it is a long-distance run. We need to remember that when we get our juices flowing and get all fired up for God. We join the worship team, we enroll in Bible studies, we form small groups, and maybe we even evangelize. As time passes, the enemy introduces other things into your schedule, messes with your relationships or your health, and brings in all sorts of hurdles and distractions that ultimately can wear you down. That's why the writer exhorts us in chapter 12 verses 1-3: "And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. ...Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

I want to conclude with an invitation – let's say I was to invite all of you to a party. The purpose of the party was to honor some of the other invitees. You naturally would want to know something about these guests that are being honored. At a minimum, you would likely ask what their names were and what they had done that warranted honoring, right? Well....what would your response be if I listed off the following about the honored guests?

There will be a drunk, a bad husband, a scoffer, a deceiver, a murderer, a prostitute, and an adulterer. Want to come to this party? Probably not – but maybe some of you might?! So we've learned something about these people – what are their names? The drunk is Noah – you may remember that after they got off the ark, Noah had too much to drink and passed out naked in his tent. The bad husband is Abraham – back in Genesis 20, he told Abimilech that his wife, Sarah, was his sister. He did this because if he said Sarah was his wife, Abimilech might have killed him to take

Sarah as *his* wife. Thankfully, God came to Abimilech in a dream and told him the truth and to keep his mits off of Sarah.

The scoffer is Sarah. When she heard the news that she was going to have a son – and she was at least 80 – what did she do? She laughed – like “*yea, right!*” The deceiver is Abraham’s grandson, Jacob. He swindled his birthright from his older twin brother, Esau. The murderer is Moses. He had seen an Egyptian beating a fellow Jew, and he killed the Egyptian. The prostitute was Rahab – the Bible doesn’t offer any detail to this title, so neither will I – I think we all know what this means. Finally, the adulterer is David – we all know the story of him and Bathsheba.

Well, that’s quite a list. So what do we take away from what we’ve learned about these “honored” guests? These are documented *facts* – they’re *in* Scripture; therefore, they *are* true. Yet, we get a modified take on these people in the *New Testament* – we get these truths. Noah is an heir of righteous. Abraham embraced the promises. Sarah considered God faithful. Jacob gave important blessings to his grandsons Ephraim and Manasseh. Moses, among many other things, kept the Passover. Rahab welcomed the Jewish spies and allowed them to hide in her home to keep them safe. David is labeled a man after God’s own heart.

What’s going on here? The list on the left offers documented Biblical facts about these people. All of these facts are true, but they are statements of truth about sins – sinful behavior. The list on the right presents *greater* statements of truth about these people in the *New Testament*. We’re not hearing about the facts of their old sinful behavior – we’re hearing truths about how *God* sees them *because of their faith*. What’s the big difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament? Jesus! What was so significant about what Jesus did? – He went to the Cross to be the *permanent* sacrifice for my sin and your sin. He is our Savior, so what does a Savior do? – He saves!

When we are saved – meaning Jesus has reconciled us to the Father through His shed blood being the mechanism of our past, present, and future sins being forgiven – 2 Corinthians 5:17 reveals a **greater truth as a result of our faith**, “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*” An important question every Christian should spend a lot of time exploring is this, “*What does it mean to be a ‘new creation’?*” Well, that is a very big question and one I cannot answer in a 30-minute lecture.

However, I am going to focus on one of the most important components of understanding what it means to be a new creation in Christ in terms of our **sin**. Now what I’m about to tell you isn’t what I say. It isn’t what Carol says. It isn’t what Jim or Jeff Swaney says. It isn’t what Gene Appel says. It isn’t even what Billy Graham says. What **God** says about **your** sins once you come to faith in Him is this. “*I will remember your sins no more!*”

The God of the Old Testament is the same as the God of the New Testament, and He never changes. Brothers and sisters – do you realize what incredible news this is? If you come to really believe this truth of Scripture, it is **life changing**.

What does sin do? – A lot – and none of it good. Sin discourages; sin shames; sin guilty; sin tears down; sin wearis; sin worries; sin mames; sin disfigures; sin fears; and, sin kills. This is bad enough, but what do you think is the worst thing that sin does? - It separates you from God. Now stay with me everyone, the importance of you understanding this cannot be overstated.

Let’s look at some Scriptures:

Romans 5:10: “*For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*”

Ephesians 2:16: “*and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*”

Colossians 1:20-21: “*and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*”

This is so awesome – watch this. The Greek words for reconcile and reconciling are apokatalasso and katalasso, respectively. These words mean to reconcile **fully**; to change **mutually**. Prior to coming to faith in Jesus, the Bible calls us children of wrath – we are literally at war with God. When we come to believe Jesus is Who He is – what was the one thing I told you to remember from my last lecture about who Jesus is? – God! When we come to believe He **is** God and believe that His crucifixion paid the price for our sins, that is **our part** of the greatest deal in history.

This is huge, folks – when you enter into an agreement or a contract with someone, there is typically a step, or steps, that each side needs to agree to in order to make the deal work – or binding. Does that make sense? When we choose to enter into a “deal” with God – our “side” of the deal is to do one thing and one thing only – believe. That’s it! There’s nothing else we need to do to satisfy **our** end of the deal. Now here’s the really cool part – God’s side of the deal – what He agrees to give to us – is to make us a new creation in Christ. Like I said earlier, the totality of what this means cannot be explained in one lecture.

However, the one amazing component of this part of the deal of being a new creation is eliminating the enmity that is between us and God – we saw this in Ephesians 2:16 – the Greek word for enmity is *echthra* – which means a reason for opposition; hatred. **God** takes this opposition between Him and us and fully

reconciles us to Him. It's a mutual agreement to change the nature of a relationship from opposition to peaceful, intimate, and loving! And you know what the very best part of this awesome side of God's deal is? – It's **permanent**!

Take a look at this picture. What is this a picture of? – A cocoon. Now think of this cocoon as who you were before you entered into your “deal” with God – coming to faith in Jesus. Now take a look at this picture. This butterfly is a new creation – it's not a caterpillar any longer, is it? No – it's a beautiful creature that can fly and cause great pleasure. Here's a critical question – “Can that butterfly go back to being a caterpillar in a cocoon?” No. Neither can you go back to being at war with God.

Let me be clear what this doesn't mean. It does **not** mean you are not going to sin again once you come to faith in Jesus. You're going to – over and over and over again. You are – just face the facts – the old sin nature will rear its ugly head from time-to-time, and you will do something stupid and hurtful. The Holy Spirit will convict you of that sin, and He will lead you to repent and make efforts to not repeat that sin. However, what He **won't do** is condemn you, shame you, and tell you that you've lost your salvation – that God is going to break His side of the deal of your salvation contract. Those are all lies, and guess who is telling you them? – Our old nemesis, Satan, or one of his evil minions.

Let's get back to our party guests. All of these people were seriously flawed individuals, but they along with several other people from the Old Testament are listed here in Chapter 11 of the Epistle to the Hebrews. What is it that they had that warranted these upgraded truths about themselves? What was it about them that God chose to not acknowledge certain facts of their lives as documented in the Old Testament? It was one thing and one thing only –Faith. And what did we learn about the faith of our party guests? Their faith included sacrifice; obedience; trust; power; victory; and new life. Want to do an inventory of your faith? – See if any of these are at work in your life. Here's the cool part, if you don't think you have much, if any of

these, just ask God to give them to you, and He absolutely will because acts of faith – even requests **for more** faith – please Him.

Ok – we’re in the final stretch – hang in there. Lets take another look at the honored guest list. From the Old Testament, we learned of these people’s sins, flaws, and failures. Since we learned of them in Scripture, they are **true facts**. Because of these heroes’ respective faith, God only sees them in the New Testament with **these** truths – these are the **greater** truths, and the **greater** truths are found in the Spirit world. He doesn’t remember the lesser facts – our old life in the flesh – the temporal world.

How can I say that greater truths are in the Spirit world? Remember the documented exchanges between either Satan and Jesus or the demons and Jesus in the Gospels? Was there any mystery as to each other’s identity in these exchanges? – No they knew exactly who each other was – there is no deception in these exchanges – just pure truth. This should be exciting to us, because the evil realm lost every single battle with Jesus – He has both authority and superior power over them.

Now some of you might be thinking, ‘*Dan, you’ve been telling us that Satan is father of lies. If this is true, Satan is a spirit - how can you say the spirit world contains the greater truth?*’ Where does Satan target his deceptions? – To us. And what does he appeal to in order for us to be deceived? – Our flesh. In our flesh, we are weak, and Satan knows it – so he attacks us and deceives us in the temporal world in hopes that we will not believe the greater truths – the ones in the eternal world.

We are about at the end of our journey, and we’re arriving back at the same place we started. Let’s take another look at this list from the beginning of the lecture. All of this persecution and hatred happens to us in the flesh – in the temporal world. Is it painful? Extremely. Do we want it to go away? You bet. Do we wonder why God hasn’t delivered us amidst the pain and suffering that comes with persecution

and hatred of our faith? Sure. But what have we just uncovered about these attacks? They are of the flesh – the temporal world – they are the lesser truths.

If they're the lesser truths, what could be the greater truths? Romans 5:3-4 indicates that we should glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. What am I suggesting? I am going to ask you to consider what if the greater truth of persecution is God allows the pain and suffering to demonstrate to you how real He is – to give you an upgrade in the quality of your relationship with Him – an upgrade in your faith. James tells us if we draw close to Him, He will draw close to us. I'm here to tell you that when God draws close to you, there is nothing in life that comes close to comparing the power of God's love. It takes your breath away. He melts every wall you've put up over the course of your life and reveals loving warmth that can heal anything. That's just a taste of the glory that Romans 8:18 is speaking of.

I can also proclaim this concept of the greater truth of the spirit world as opposed to the lesser truth of the temporal world because I have lived it. I am absolutely convinced that I would not be giving this lecture today with this message had I not gone through what my family and I went through as a result of Vickie's health. Did what we go through hurt? Yes, it was awful. However, I am standing here today to tell you that our relationship with God is so much stronger today than it was before our trials – that I *can* say it was worth it. I'll confess it took a long time to arrive at this belief, but I have no doubt it's true.

I like pictures, so let's wrap this up with a visual. We're born into sin in and all we know is what is in the temporal world – the flesh. Someone comes along to tell us there's another world – the eternal world – the spirit world. We then learn that we can't get from the temporal world to the eternal world because of our sin. We then learn that God wants all of us in the Spirit world, but we have to do something about our sin before we can get there. Today, we learned about what faith does – it builds a

bridge for us to cross over from the temporal world to the spirit world and live in eternal peace with Him. That bridge of faith is not suspended in animation – it is based on the truth of God’s Son Jesus Christ, who was our role model of faith. He had perfect faith in the Father, and what did He accomplish with that faith? - Sacrifice, obedience, trust, power, victory, and new life.

By His Son, God provided us a path from the temporal world –the lesser truth to the eternal world –the greater truth because He *is* the truth – He is the way, the truth, and the life – and we can go to the Father because of our faith in Him. We read today about people who walked the bridge of faith – they were flawed like you and me, but they led extraordinary lives because they did one thing and one thing only, they had faith. Don’t let the enemy drag you down with the lesser truths of your failures. Remember how God sees you because of your faith – He sees the greater truths. Why don’t you ask Him what they are? I’m sure He’ll let you know, because your faith pleases Him. Let’s pray.