



Religion Today

Worship service of the Rhema church

Male Preacher

Let us make his praise glorious. And if we're going to make that praise glorious this morning, let's start by giving him a shout of praise in this place. Halleluja! We magnify you Lord God Almighty, we lift you up and give you praise this morning.

[congregation sings hymn]

Male Preacher

Hosanna to the King of Kings!

[congregation sings hymn]

Male Preacher

Give the Lord a big hand this morning, will you? Hallelujah! This is the day, this is the day that the Lord will reign. And we will rejoice, and be glad in it, Hallelujah!

Pastor Ray McCauley

How many of you would like to know that you are blessed? Say Amen.

Now, first of all, and I'm going to be reading quite a bit or sharing with you from the message translation. He said this in Matthew 5 and verse 3. 'You are blessed when you are at the end of the rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.' How many of you would like to know that you're blessed? In Mark 8 verse 34 to 37 from the amplified, it says Jesus called to him the throng of his disciples and said to them: 'If anyone intends to come after me, let him deny himself. Forget, ignore, disown, lose sight of himself and his own interests.'

That's interesting. 90% of Christians worry about their own little interests. What's right for them? What would be best for them? What would be best for their situation? I thanked God in 1969, I came to the end of the rope of my life. I thank God that when we look back and we see where we've come from and when you look back and see what God saved you from, I thank God you came to the place one day where you realised you could not save yourself, that you were empty inside, that you could not live with yourself any longer and that you needed a saviour and that you were empty inside and that you had come to the end of your rope. Say amen, somebody.

Thank God for that life! It's superior in quality, that's the ... kind of life. It's more abundant in quantity. And to come this morning and worship God is a privilege and an honour, to be able to speak to God, to be able to worship Him, to be able to know His work, to know to live for Him to live for Christ, for Christ's sake and the Gospels is the greatest privilege and the greatest honour that there is. And I don't want to change that life, I don't want to walk away from that life, I don't want to turn my back on that life. I will never ever want or desire to go back to the world. Say amen, somebody.

Blessed are we. We can wake up on a Sunday morning without a bubble? We can worship God on a Sunday morning, a Saturday night, a Monday. We can praise Him. We can lift our hands and exalt Him. We know what it's like to have that life. Now, number two, you know you're blessed when you're content with just who you are. You know you are blessed when you are content just with who you are, no more, no less. Stop whining, stop moaning, stop complaining, stop criticising and just get on with serving God, touching people, reaching people, and be content with the fact that you have abundant life, you know Christ, you've been saved, you've been delivered and you know that you can walk in His life. Say amen, somebody.

You know you're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom. Count yourselves blessed everytime people put you down, or throw you out, or speak lies about you to discredit me. You see, there's some people, you drive them nuts, you work with them. And you come in and they've been taking a whole lot of stuff and they're nice, and they've been doing this and doing - and you walk in on a Monday and say 'praise God, I prayed for you this weekend, brother.'

They get so uncomfortable around you. You tell them, 'don't worry, I'm praying for you. God loves you, we love you. Amen.' And they get uncomfortable. Some of your relatives, oh, they wish you're not going to turn up for Christmas. Because they'll ask you to pray over the food and then you start, 'thank you Jesus, I love you, amen.'

Now listen to what the message says. This really challenged me. This is really a challenge to all of us. You can be glad that happens, give a cheer even. For though, for though they don't like it, I do. And all Heaven applauds. And know that you're in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always got me into this kind of trouble. Yes, all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. Amen. I don't care what people say on the radio, you do not have sex outside of marriage. They might think that we're narrow-minded, they might think that we have lost it. They might think that we are not living in the real world. I'll tell you young people, you do not have sex outside of marriage. Amen. And you see some people will persecute that. Well, we are living in 2000 or whatever, this century and that century, we're living in this millennium, we're living in that. I don't care where we're living.

Hello! Would you like to be known as being blessed? Let me ask it again. Would you like to be known as somebody who is blessed? I want us to stand, nobody moving right now but just standing up right where you are. If you have sickness, you have disease in your body, I want you to put your hand on where that sickness is, because we want to be a blessing. And we want you to be healed. Father, we rebuke every symptom of sickness and disease. Father, we come against the spirit of lack. In any and every area we rebuke it in the name of Jesus. We cast it down, we cast it out, and we cause it to be removed. Father, we just thank you this morning that we are a blessed people. And Father, we thank you that when we are persecuted for your sake, when people ridicule us, criticise us, mock us, laugh at us, point fingers at us because we believe in you, Jesus, we're going to rejoice, we're going to rejoice. Because we know our commitment to you might make people uncomfortable. But we'll pray for them, we'll reach out to them and we'll see your life and your light come to them, in Jesus' name.

Father, I thank you that you'll anoint people in this place right now. Just raise your hands and worship him for a moment.

(Foreign Language)

While every head is bowed and every eye is closed this morning, no-one moving. You are not here by accident, you are here on purpose. Maybe you've come into this place this morning with an emptiness. See, it's not religion, it's a relationship. It's not church attendance. You might know a lot about Jesus but you have to believe in Jesus. Maybe you've come to the end of your rope, maybe you've come to the place where you recognise and know that you cannot save yourself. That you cannot produce the joy, the peace and the life.

Today you're going to surrender your life and commit your life to God. You're going to die and He's going to come and live in you and He's going to live through you. He will bring the abundant life to you.

And so, while every head is bowed and every eye is closed, if that's you this morning, don't listen to your head, listen to your heart. Or maybe you hear this morning and you say, 'Pastor Ray, I did pray a prayer, but I know in my heart this morning and I want to be transparent and real before God. I'm not living for God, He's not the Lord of my life and I've turned my back and I've walked away.' Don't walk away from Him, walk towards Him. If you're back-slidden,

slide back to God. Repent, turn around and come home. And, right now, if you fit into either one of those two categories, please let me pray for you. And if you want my prayer for you right now while people are praying for you and every head is bowed and every eye is closed, I want you quickly, just to slip your hand up and say, 'Pastor Ray, that's me, pray for me.' If that's you this morning as I look through this congregation, thank you, just raise your hand right now where ever you are, say, 'pray for me.' God bless you, God bless you, God bless you, God bless you, bless you. Thank you, thank you.

Just raise your hand up and let me see it today. Thank you, Jesus. You want to receive Christ as your Lord. You want to make Jesus, you want to get – right, thank you, thank you, thank you right over there. Thank you, thank you over there, thank you.

Now, if you're standing next to somebody and they never raised their hand, but you know with a little bit of encouragement they're ready to receive Christ, just give them a nudge and say, 'come on I'll come with you.' But if you raised your hand, please come right now. Just come. Would you do that? Come. Just come. If you raised your hand just get out from where you are and come down here right now, just come, please. Thank you, Jesus. Come on let's give the Lord a hand this morning as though we mean it.

Amen and amen. God is good. And his mercy endures forever. What a privilege and honour.

Now, let's just remain in an attitude of reverence and respect for God. Let's honour God this morning, in the next five minutes or so, that's all.

Amen. There's still some people coming, we'll just wait a minute. And we thank God for you, every one of you are valuable and precious. Thank you for coming and being here today. Amen. It's a great privilege and honour to minister to you and right now I am going to pray for you, just be sincere in your heart. The family of God, would you reach out your hand towards these valuable and precious people? And let's pray this prayer. Say, 'Lord Jesus, I believe that you are God the son. I believe that you died on the cross for me, that you've been raised from the dead. Thank you for forgiving my sins. I now receive you as my Lord, as my saviour. Thank you for washing me in your blood and making me brand new. And I submit my life to you, spirit, soul and body. Thank you Jesus for saving me.