

199333 toseejesusourlord siplej rev1v4 7

Let's open our Bibles tonight to Revelation chapter 1 and I'm going to read verses 4 through 7. Revelation 1 verses 4 through 7. While you're finding your place just let me say this. One of the things that I've learned as a pastor that I think is probably one of the most important things I've learned is that when God does something in your life and you make a new step with God, whatever it is, and you know that God has dealt with you and in a special way he's met you in some new way in your life. Then especially when you go home from a place like this it's sort of like going back down into the valley again where you have to face all the issues of life.

Whatever you do keep carrying through with what God has started. All things that God does for us are both a crisis and a process. They're not one or the other, they're both.

And so they're often there's a crisis takes place in your life at a place like this. But when you go home carry on the process. Don't expect everything to be perfect immediately but continue to walk with God and continue to trust him for what he has done and then continue to press ahead and let him carry through what he has started in your life.

Amen? Please do that. Now Revelation chapter 1 verses 4 through 7. John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from him who is and who was and who is to come.

And from the seven spirits before his throne and from Jesus Christ who is the faithful witness the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and father to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

Amen. Look he is coming with clouds and every eye will see him and every eye will see him. Even those who pierced him and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him.

So shall it be. Amen. Let us pray.

Father we thank you for this wonderful time you have given us together at this camp. We thank you for your people who have come and have taken time from their busy lives and have prayed and and have been so supportive and have opened their hearts to you. We just thank you.

And now tonight Lord we pray that again your Holy Spirit in mercy and love to us will open our understanding and open our imaginations to see into a realm where we really have not been. And we pray that the eyes of our hearts may be able to see you and that you will reveal yourself to us tonight and draw our hearts to your heart. We pray in Jesus name.

Amen. Very seldom do I do any grocery shopping. My wife does most of it and she always has and not only because I don't really care for it very much but because if I did it with her all the time I would make her too nervous.

These ladies know what they want. They're better off I think at least that's my opinion doing it. So I very seldom do any grocery shopping.

But not long ago I was doing some grocery shopping just one of those quick ones you know where you run into the supermarket and you have about five items and you get it. That's my kind. I like that.

And so I went and I did that and I was standing at the checkout and you know at most of the checkouts in the supermarkets they have all these magazines and tabloid newspapers displayed. They're a sight. While you're just standing in sometimes you find yourself just glancing at them and the lurid headlines and so forth.

But I saw one that really took my attention. So much so that I went back in the next day and looked around to see that nobody was looking and bought one. You know I ain't about to catch me.

But it was unusual. The whole front page was unusual. It had a headline and a huge photograph.

It was the weekly world news. And this is what the headline said. Face of Jesus seen over Somalia.

U.S. Marines snaps photo of Christ in whirling sandstorm. Did you see it? Was it truly the face of Christ? Was it a divine miracle as Pope John Paul II seems to think? I don't know. The face in the photograph, I'm afraid, looks remarkably like the face of the man who acted the part of Christ in the Canadian TV series entitled Jesus of Nazareth.

So I'm a little suspicious. Reports from Agadishu said though that the image was so striking that battle-tough Marines began to weep and fell to their knees. The 19-year-old Marine who is reported to have taken the snapshot, the photograph, said, when you see Jesus Christ you don't talk or think.

You get down your knees and pray like there was no tomorrow. That's interesting. I should read that again.

A 19-year-old Marine. When you see Jesus Christ you don't talk or think. You get down on your knees and pray like there was no tomorrow.

What would it really be like to see Jesus? Have you thought about it? What will it be like when we see Jesus? Our text says every eye will see him. Every eye will see him. Someday I am going to stand in front of Jesus Christ and look into his face.

I really am. What about you? You say, well now preacher I'm not a Christian. That doesn't make any difference.

Jesus said the Father has committed all judgment into his hands and that he will judge all men

and that someday all that are in the graves will hear the voice of the Son of Man and will come forth and everyone will stand in the presence of Jesus Christ, saved and unsaved, Christian and non-Christian. And every eye will see Jesus Christ. Every one of us will look into his face.

Well there have been many people who have seen him. There have been many people in fact who have seen him and have testified that they have seen him. Let me give you just a few very quickly tonight.

Moses and the elders of Israel saw God. In Exodus chapter 25 and verses 9 to 11, listen to these words. Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and the 70 elders of Israel went up into the mountain and they saw the God of Israel.

Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself, and they saw God. Think of it. What was it like? They saw God.

You say, what did they see? Well they didn't see the Ancient of Days. They saw the pre-incarnate Christ. They saw what the theologians call a Christophany.

They saw the appearance of the Son of the Living God, the Eternal Word, the second person of the Trinity before he went into human flesh in the womb of Mary and became Jesus. They saw the Lord. They saw him.

Ezekiel saw the Lord. Ezekiel chapter 1 verse 26, above the expanse over their heads, he said, was what looked like a throne of sapphire and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal as if full of fire and that from there down he looked like fire and brilliant light surrounded him like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day.

So was the radiance around him. This, says Ezekiel, was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord and when I saw him I fell on my face. I wonder what I will do when I first see the Lord.

I think I will fall on my face. What is it like to see him? Isaiah saw the Lord. Isaiah 6, in the year that King Uzziah died, he said, I saw also the Lord seated on a throne high and exalted and the train of his robe filled the temple.

Above him were the seraphs, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces. With two they covered their feet and with two they were flying and they were calling to one another, holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.

The whole earth is full of his glory and at the sound of their voices the door posts and the threshold shook and the temple was filled with smoke. Woe is me, I cried. I am ruined for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips.

For mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty. He saw the Lord. Daniel saw the Lord.

In fact, I think that Daniel's vision of the Lord is one of the most magnificent word pictures anywhere in all the Bible from one end to the other. He says in Daniel 7, and let me just read this to you, you won't be able to have time to look it up and I'm going to skip through the verses, but he says, I looked and the thrones were set in place and the ancient of days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow and the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him and 10,000 times 10,000 stood before him.

That is millions stood before him. The court was seated and the books were opened. And in my vision at night, I looked and there before me was one like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven.

He approached the ancient of days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power. All people's nations and men of every language worshiped him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel saw the Lord. He saw Jesus Christ.

And then, you know, the apostle Paul saw him. There have been some of you while you've been here who have faced the fact that your heart was full of bitterness and pain and anger and God has set you free. Isn't that wonderful? Well, Saul was a bitter angry man.

He was raging against the church of Jesus Christ and he thought he was doing God's service and he had authority from the high priest to take people and throw them into prison and torture them to death and make them deny Christ. And listen to his own words about seeing the Lord. On one of these journeys, I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priest.

About noon, O King, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven brighter than the sun blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the ox code. Then I asked, who are you, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you and I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

And Saul saw the Lord and his life was changed. What will it be like to see Jesus? John saw the Lord. In fact, that's what this book of Revelation is about, isn't it? He was on the Isle of Patmos because he had been put there as a prisoner, exiled.

And they put him out there, hopefully to rot and to die. But he had this great vision that closes our Bible. And in this tremendous vision, it was a vision of the Lord that he saw.

And I want to read you some part of that vision tonight because he literally saw Jesus face to face. And I want us to think very seriously tonight about what it will be to stand before him and to see him face to face. Now, first, of course, he saw Jesus as the Son of God, who is the head of the church.

I want you to look with me at the very first chapter, verse 12, Revelation 1, verse 12. I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands.

And among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe, reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like blazing fire.

His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace. And his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand, he held seven stars.

And out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. And when I saw him, when I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead.

I wonder how I would react if I were to see Jesus tonight. Tonight. When John saw him in all his glory, he fell at his feet as though he were dead.

And Christ put his hand upon him. And he said, Fear not, I am the first and the last. Behold, I was dead and I am alive forevermore and have the keys of hell and of death.

But the thing that he saw when he saw Jesus, he saw the one who is the head of the church and who is in the midst of the church. Now listen to me very carefully tonight. My friends, I want you to know that Jesus Christ, the son of the living God, is walking up and down today, 1993, in Canada.

He is walking up and down in the midst of his church. Do you know that he knows everything that goes on in the church? Have you ever thought about that? He knows everything that goes on in the church. There were lots of things went on in churches that I pastored that I didn't know about, thank the Lord.

I knew enough sometimes to break my heart. I knew enough sometimes to make me weep and cry and groan in God's presence. But I want you to know that Jesus is in the midst of his church tonight and that he knows everything that's going on in the church.

He knows everything that I do in relationship to the church, everything I say, everything I think, everything I don't do. He knows all my relationship with his church, his body. And there's going to come a day when I am going to see Jesus Christ face to face.

And when I look into his eyes, I wonder what he will have to say to me about what I have done in his church. I wonder how those people will face him who have done harm to his church, who have caused division in his church, who have caused problems in his church, who have not really been obedient, submissive, godly members of his church, who have been part of the problem instead of part of the cure. And when I stop to think about that, I say, oh my God, please help me to be in your church what you want me to be because you're the Lord of the church.

And someday I'm going to look right into your face and those eyes are going to look right into my eyes and they're going to search my soul and they're going to know everything about my relationship to the church of Jesus Christ from the first to the last. And I want it to be a good time when I stand in his presence, don't you? Don't you want it to be a wonderful time? Every eye will see him and we will answer to him in that day for our part in the church of Jesus Christ. And then you go over a little farther and you come to that wonderful vision that he had of Jesus Christ.

It's quite a remarkable vision because he saw the throne of God and then he saw around the throne 24 other thrones and he saw these glorious beings sitting on these 24 thrones with golden crowns on their heads. They were the rulers of the universe under God Almighty. He was in the throne room of the universe.

And then right in the midst of the throne there was a lamb looking like it had been slain. And there was someone who had a book in their hand and that book contained the future of every human being who has ever existed. It had the future of mankind.

And one was weeping and finally John began to weep because somebody was crying out, who can break the seals and who can open the book of man's future? And no one was found either in heaven or earth or all the universe who had a right to hold in their hand the future of man. And John said, I was weeping because no one could look into man's future and then I saw one like a that had been slain. It was the savior with the nail prints in his hands and feet and the wound in his side in the center of the throne.

It was Jesus. And they came and they gave him the book and he opened the book because he's the only one that has the right to deal with man's future. And when I look at that vision that he saw of the Lord and I think the Lord holds in his hand my eternal future.

He holds my life, my very life in his hand. And I think, oh Lord, you who shed your blood for me, you who died to purchase me, you who hold in your hand all of my eternal future as a human being, what have I done with my life? What have I done with my life? That life that was redeemed by the blood of the Lamb at such cost, that life that you hold in your hand forever and ever, what have I done with that life in this world? Oh, have I lived it for myself, for my own ambitions, for my own pleasures, for my own joys, or have I given that life back to you? And when I stand in your holy presence and those searching eyes look deep into my heart and soul, and I know in that moment that you know everything about me, will you be pleased with what

I've done with my life? Will you be pleased? We were having lunch with the SALT team and they were a great group of young people and they did a great work while they were here. They're just wonderful kids and we're so thrilled with them and had such a good time with them.

And I shared with them how when I was 16 and I was a senior in high school and I was at a large high school in Long Island, 2300 kids. And what they did those days, businesses would come in and look at the records of the students and then they would offer jobs to them. Well, I was in a family where there was no money to go to college and if I ever got any education, I'd have to work my way through and pay for it.

And I was a Christian teenager and one day the counselor called me in and said, I have good news for you. And it wasn't because I was an A student, I was not. Because I was not excited, I'm sorry to say, about high school.

I got a little more excited later when I got in Bible college. But there was so much sin and everything, but that's no excuse. Anyway, I was not an A student.

But the counselor sat me down, he said, there has been a law firm in New York City that has been looking at your records here in this school and they have asked me to make an offer to you. If you will accept it, when you graduate, they will take you to New York City and they will put you in their office as an office boy and they will send you to law school and pay your way through law school and pay all your expenses. And when you're finished, if you do well, there will be a place in their firm as a junior attorney and your entire future life will be secure.

What about it? Oh man, for a poor little preacher's boy? Not a poor preacher, I mean, I mean for a little boy who was the son of a preacher who didn't have any money. And it was only a short time later, one night, that God put his hand on my shoulder and said, I want you. And I said, Lord, I don't have any money to go to school or anything.

And God said, don't worry about that. You obey me and I'll pay the expenses. And you know, here I am.

Well, I'm still a young man, you know. But I'm not as close to that end as I am to this one. And you know, I'm so glad tonight that I said yes to Jesus with my life.

Amen. I'm so glad. And so I know I'm going to stand in his presence and I'm going to be concerned about what I've done with my life.

And he's going to look into my very heart. And what will I say to him when I stand there? When I see Jesus. And then John had another vision, you know, it was that vision of Israel, like a woman.

And she was giving birth to a manchild and Satan was waiting there to gobble him up. And of course it was Christ. And he was born as the seed of the woman.

And as we look at that whole picture, so full of humanity, so full of human nature and all the things that relate to this earth and the persecutions and sufferings that belong to humanity. And I think about the fact that Jesus was not only God, but he was fully man and that he was the seed of the woman. And immediately as I see that vision of Christ, I think about that moment when I stand before him and he will ask me, how have you lived your life in your human relationships? As a human being, I want to ask you that question, Jesus will say.

And my friend, when you stand before Jesus Christ, you know, he will know. He will know how I treated my wife. He will know how I treated my children.

He will know how I treated my neighbors. He will know how I treated other human beings. He will know fully all my human relationships.

If I've had bitterness and anger and resentment in my heart and an unforgiving spirit toward people. And if I've been harsh or dictatorial or authoritarian or ugly or mean or small or ungenerous with other human beings. Jesus will know all about it.

And I'm going to see him. He'll know every nasty word I have ever said to the members of my family. Everyone.

He'll know every time I ever lost my temper with them. He'll know all the times that I didn't reach out the hand of love to somebody when I could have and should have. He will know all my human relationships as the seed of the woman.

He will be concerned about my human relationships. He was so concerned about that, that on the cross, he, when he was dying in agony and shame for the universe, he took care of his mother and of his beloved disciple in those agonizing moments because he cares about our human relationships intensely. And when I see him, what will he say to me? I surely want to get those things taken care of before that hour.

I surely do. They need to be settled without any question. And so may God help us to think about that as we think about seeing him.

And one more great vision in that book. And you notice I'm not turning them tonight because we just don't want to take the time and you can look them up and read them. But when you get right down to the 19th chapter of Revelation, you come to that tremendous vision of Jesus coming again.

And there is an angel that says the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. And he comes riding out of heaven on a white horse with the armies of heaven behind him. And he has on his thigh a name king of kings and Lord of Lords.

Hallelujah. You know, we sing that. Do you believe in that? Do you believe he's coming? Do you believe he's coming to set up his kingdom on earth and he's going to take over the rulership of

the governments of this world? And he's going to reign on this earth for a thousand glorious years and the thrones will be set and we who are his children will reign with him.

But before that happens, we will stand before the Bema, the judgment seat of Christ, and we will look into his face. And you know, one thing I think he will ask us in that moment, what have I done about the lost world around me? The world that he now will bring judgment upon with a rod of iron. In fact, that he will tread like a wine press until the blood is as high as horses bridles for 200 miles around Jerusalem.

And I believe he'll be very, very concerned in that moment about what I have done about that lost world. Have I just gone on my comfortable way as a Christian in the church? And if I just let that world around me go to hell, if I haven't cared and I've been too busy and I haven't had the time and I've even had too much to do in the church to care about the lost around me. And I stand in the presence of my Lord Jesus without one soul to my account.

And I think he will want to know about that and he will know about it. And his eyes will search my heart. And in that moment, I wonder how I will react to him.

You know what Paul said in his great letter to the Thessalonians, you know, they're the second coming epistles. And in that first Thessalonians, in one of those chapters, he said to those that he had led to Christ, that he had won to Christ and Thessalonica. He said, are not you my joy and my crown at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ? You are my joy and my crown.

He said, the thing that will make me rejoice when Jesus Christ comes again, are you that I have been privileged to lead to the savior. You know, I'm kind of looking forward to that when I see him and there's gathered around him all the people of God. Don't you want somebody to come up in that day and throw their arms around your neck and say, thank you.

Thank you. I'm here because of you. Huh? Oh, may God give us many such joys.

Won't it be a tragedy if we stand there and we see other people having that happen and others running with joy. And we stand there in his presence and he looks at us sadly. Oh, you say, I don't believe that there won't be any tears in heaven.

Oh yes, there will. You better believe it. The Bible does not teach that our tears will be wiped away until we get away down the end of the book of revelation.

And we're already past the judgment seat of Christ and our first meeting with the savior. I believe there will be Christians who will stand in the presence of Christ, whether by death or by the second coming and sob their hearts out in his presence. Saved, yes, but having done nothing really about the world around them, lost and going to hell.

And it will be a serious matter to look into the face of Jesus then. See every eye. We'll see him.

Well, Charles Finney saw Jesus Christ. Let me give you his testimony tonight. Charles Finney, the

great revivalist said it was on the same day that I was converted.

He was alone in his office when he gave his life to Christ because the office was quiet and dark. A friend had come by to see if he was all right. Now listen to his experience in his own words.

Just at dark square W seeing that everything was adjusted, told me good night and went to his home. I had accompanied him to the door and as I closed the door and turned around, my heart seemed to be liquid within me. All my feelings seem to rise and flow out.

And the thought of my heart was I want to pour my whole soul out to God. The rising of my soul was so great that I rushed into the room in back of the front office to pray. There was no fire, no light in this back room.

Nevertheless, it appeared to me as if it were perfectly light. As I went in and shut the door after me, it seemed as if I met the Lord Jesus Christ face to face. He said nothing but looked at me in such a manner as to break me right down at his feet.

It seemed to me a reality that he stood before me and I fell down at his feet and poured my soul out to him. I wept aloud like a child and made such confessions as I could with my choked words. It seemed to me that I bathed his feet with my tears, and yet I had no distinct impression that I touched him.

I must have continued in this state for a good while, but my mind was too much absorbed with the interview to remember anything that I said. As soon as my mind became calm enough, I returned to the front office and found that the fire I had made of large wood was nearly burned out. But as I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received a mighty baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was any such thing for me, without any memory of ever having the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to go through me body and soul. I could feel the impression like a wave of electricity going through and through me. Indeed, it seemed to come in waves of liquid love, for I could not express it in any other way.

It seemed like the very breath of God. I can remember distinctly that it seemed to fan me like immense wings. No words can express the wonderful love that was spread abroad in my heart.

I wept aloud with joy and love. I literally bellowed out the unspeakable overflow of my heart. These waves came over me and over me one after the other until I remember crying out, I shall die if these waves continue to pass over me.

Lord, I cannot bear any more. Yet I had no fear of death. Such is the account of one who saw the Lord face to face.

What will it be like when I see Jesus? A few years ago as a pastor, I was feeling dry and burned

out and exhausted and like I didn't have much juice left in me. If I got squeezed once, the rest of it would be gone. And I said to my wife and she agreed with me that I really needed to get alone somewhere with God and get renewed.

There was a family in our church that had a cottage out at the lake and they were so kind. They said, just take the cottage and go out there and stay a while. My wife went out with me for the first what day was it? And of course she takes care of her husband.

She took out all the food, you know, and all those things and made sure I was all comfortable and got me all started. And then we had to go back into town for something. And then she said, I'm not going back out with you.

I'm staying home. You go back out there alone. With God.

So I did. Well, I spent the day with him. He wasn't exactly alone.

I decided to go down to the beach and go swimming. I didn't think anybody in the world out there knew me, but they did. And so I wasn't entirely alone.

But by the second day, I was beginning to sense that I was in the presence of God and God began to speak to me. And suddenly the words started coming to my heart and I grabbed a piece of paper and I wrote it down. Let me give it to you soon.

Now I will see him look into his face, answer all his questions as to how I've run the race, how his gaze will search me, look into my eyes, pierce my inner being and all that look implies. What will be his words then? Words that deal with me, words that shape my future for all eternity. Oh, I want to please him, make his heart to sing, fill his eyes with gladness when I stand before my King, all my friends.

It isn't going to be long and we shall see him face to face. I used to know a man. His name was Reverend Paris Reedhead.

He was a man who had been a very, very successful pastor of some very large churches. God completely turned his life around. But before that happened, he had a dream one night and he dreamed that he was with a vast crowd.

And as he was with this vast crowd, he could see in the distance a throne. And as he stood there looking at that throne glowing with an unearthly light, he became aware that Jesus, the son of God, was sitting in that throne. And he knew that he was standing with all the redeemed of all the ages before the Bema, the judgment seat of Christ.

And he was very interested in what would be happening. So he kept watching. There was a brazier burning before Christ, the flames in it and the red coals.

And one by one, each person that stood in that vast unnumbered crowd, their name would be called and they would move forward. And as they came and stood before Jesus, an angel would

come up with a sack in their hand and would say, hold out your hands. And they would hold out their hands and the angel would put the sack in their hands.

And he said, instinctively, I knew that in that bag or that sack were the works of that person that they had done for God in a lifetime. And then the angel would say, put it in the fire. And they would put the sack in the fire and the flames would leap up and burn and consume the sack.

And then the angel would reach in and take out what was left and say, hold out your hands. And they would put in their hands what was left. He said, he watched as some people had sacks of various kinds.

And after the flames had leapt up and had burned, there was almost nothing to put into their hands because it had been works of flesh and works of humanity and works not done in the love of God and things not done by the power of the Holy Spirit. A life, really a Christian life, lived in the flesh instead of in the spirit. And they had very little, some had nothing but ashes to go into their hands.

And they stood and they wept and they wept in the presence of Christ. He said he saw some, some to his amazement that he had never heard of that he didn't know existed. And there were huge sacks placed in the fire.

And after the fire had leapt up, it seemed to all be there. And when it was put back in their hands, they could hardly hold the jewels and the gold and the silver that was theirs as they stood radiant before Christ rejoicing. And then he said, before he realized that it was his turn and he stood before the throne and the angel put into his hands a huge sack because he had lived a very busy life.

All of it lived as a pastor, really. And the angel said, put it in the fire. And he set it in the fire and the flames leapt up and it began to shrink and to shrink and to shrink.

And finally the flames died down and the angel reached in and said, stretch out your hands. And when he opened his eyes, they was in his two hands, a pile of ashes. And he said he stood in the presence of Christ and he wept and he wept and he wept as if his heart would break.

And he awoke in the night, shaking and crying and sobbing into his pillow until his pillow was wet with his tears. And he said he got out of his bed and down on his knees before God and confessed to God how selfish he had been and how ambitious he had been and how he had lived for himself and not really for God and how even his works done in the ministry had not been done for the love of Christ and had not been done in the power of the Spirit but by worldly methods and by human strength and human ability. And he poured it out before God until God changed him.

And he knew that someday he would be able to stand face to face with Christ. Well my friends, every eye shall see him. Every eye shall see him.

What will it be like? Huh? Do you know? Can you imagine what it will be like for you? My father died many years ago. He was pastor of a church when he died and the church asked me to preach the next week after the funeral in that pulpit. And I preached on the subject my first 24 hours in heaven.

And I tried to imagine my dad his first 24 hours in heaven. And my heart was hurting and sore from his loss. And I was asleep one night and I began to dream.

And I dreamed that there was a long stairway in front of me and it seemed like I was supposed to go up the stairs. And so I went walking up the stairs and went up higher and higher and higher and higher. And I got to the top of the stairs and there was a door and I stood before the door.

And all at once the door opened and my father came out. And he looked at me and his face was shining with happiness. And then he kissed me and then I woke up.

And it was as if God said to me, yes everything you have always believed is true. And dad is with the Lord in heaven rejoicing. And he's saying to you, my son live your life so that someday you can enter into God's presence with joy.

Soon now I will see him. What about you? Let us bow our heads in prayer. Our heads bowed and our eyes closed.

I know this is the last night of camp and I know some of you have a long ways to go and we understand that. We're not going to keep you. But it just may be that you're here tonight and God may have spoken to you throughout this camp or maybe this is the first service you've been to.

I don't know. But tonight the Holy Spirit has spoken to you and said, my child, if you were to meet Jesus Christ tonight, it would be a sad and a disappointing meeting for both you and him. Oh, you'd be saved, but you're not really ready to meet him.

And you know, in your heart, that's true. And tonight, before you leave these grounds, you would like to take just a few moments to pray and to seek his face and to confess whatever sin he points out and to yield to him in whatever way he wants you to yield and to make sure that you're ready to meet him face to face. And we're going to wait just a few moments.

We're not going to sing. We're not going to put any pressure on you. But if you know you need to meet God in prayer tonight, just get up out of your seat wherever you are and just come forward to this altar quietly and kneel and take a few minutes to get that matter settled with the Lord.

We're just going to wait a few moments to give you that opportunity. You say, God is speaking to me. I know I'm not really ready to meet Christ.

There's some things I need to say to him tonight. You come quickly. Our heads are bowed and our eyes are closed.

You just get up and come quietly and take a few minutes to talk to him while we wait. Just come. All right.

I'm going to close in prayer. We're not going to prolong it or wait for you. We're going to close in prayer.

Keep your eyes closed, please, and your heads bowed. I wonder if you're here tonight and you say, Pastor, I didn't come forward, but God really spoke to me tonight. And I want to say to God that I'm going home and I'm going to seek his face and I'm going to get those things straightened out.

Will you pray for me? Just lift your hand quickly and put it down. Yes. Thank you.

While we wait, just yes. Thank you. Yes.

I'm not going to trick you or point you out or trap you. Yes. Thank you.

I want to remember you in prayer. You say, God has spoken to me and I want to say to him by the uplifted hand that I'm going home and I'm going to get these things straightened out with God. Wait just a moment longer for you to raise your hand.

Yes. Thank you. Yes.

Thank you. Yes. Thank you.

Just give you time. Are there others? Yes. Thank you.

Yes. I thank you. Just a moment more.

Yes. I thank you. Now, Father, you see us tonight as we are seated here in your presence and you know what you have been saying to each one of your children in this room tonight.

For some of us, the idea of meeting Christ is filled with joy. The Lord, I pray for each one who has lifted their hand tonight. You know what that matter is that you have said to them and you've talked to them about.

And I pray tonight, Lord, that they will not forget making this decision tonight. Oh, I pray your Holy spirit will seal this commitment in their heart and that they will indeed find a place tonight or tomorrow very quickly to get alone with you and to pray and to settle that matter with God and to begin to prepare for that hour when we shall meet Christ. Oh, Lord, help them in a system.

Do not let the devil turn them aside, but help them to to get this matter carried through to victory. We ask it in the name of Jesus. Let us stand with our heads bowed and our eyes closed.

Oh, Lord, we thank you for your great love. We know that we shall stand in your presence. What a wonderful joy it will be when we are set free from all the problems of earth and we are glorified in your holy presence forever.

We can hardly imagine what it's like. Oh, Lord, what a joyous day that will be. But, Lord, we pray that we shall face that day with reverence and awe and that our hearts will so see what that day is like that we shall prepare for that day.

This we ask in Jesus' holy name. Amen. Good night.

It's