

# My Early Life as an Infidel

by Rolfe Barnard

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of surrendering to God's will and obeying His commands in order to be saved.*

**Duration:** 1:03:18

**Scripture:** Psalm 14:1, Matthew 6:33, Romans 8:37, 1 Corinthians 15:28, Ephesians 6:12, Colossians 2:6, Revelation 20:15

**Topics:** "Testimony"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of God's victory over man's rebellion for salvation. He refers to Psalm 14:1 and highlights the significance of two italicized words in the King James Version, indicating that they were not present in the oldest manuscripts. The preacher shares a personal experience of being called a missionary at a young age and witnessing the hypocrisy of church members. He emphasizes that salvation is not just about believing certain doctrines, but about having a living, daily relationship with Jesus Christ. The sermon concludes with the idea that God can only crush rebellion in a person's life by crossing them at the point where their rebellion surfaces.

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## Transcript

...church at this recording. The Apostle Paul said that he knew no man after the flesh, and that he put no confidence in the flesh. But one of the joys I've had these many years, going from one church to another, is meeting fine young preachers.

Nothing on earth that I treasure more than God raising up young men who are preaching now what their granddaddies used to preach. And that's a step in the right direction. Some liberal criticized Billy Graham and said that he took us back for 200 years, and Billy answered and said he aimed to take us back to the New Testament, and that was good at least.

And I attempt to do something tonight that I criticize others for. Some years since, when we were at a low ebb, sure enough, spiritually up in the United States, we had a rash of exes enter the field of evangelism. Ex-convicts and ex-con-men and ex-pickpockets and ex-movie stars and ex-couldn't-preach-unless-she-was-an-ex.

I sometimes wondered what poor old Paul would do. He never had robbed a bank that got out on him or anything like that. And I didn't like that, because I heard some of them and they seemed to glorify what big

shots they used to be when they were in rebellion.

And we don't like that. But in spite of that, I trust the Lord will be pleased as I seek to bring a word of testimony tonight about how God did for me what he has to do for every human being if he saves them. God has to cross and crush man's will at the point where his rebellion heads up.

And if God wins in that battle, a man is saved. And if the man wins the battle, he'll have to go to hell for his trouble. In the book of the Psalms, at chapter 14 and verse 1, we have our scripture.

Psalms 14, just the first sentence of the first verse of Psalms 14. If you have your pencils, I hope you'll use them tonight on your Bible, especially if you have before you, as I have, the authorized, or what we call the King James Version. Whereas people there who translated this version from the original manuscripts have put in this sentence two words in italics.

The schoolchildren can tell us older people, if we do not know it already, that where you find in the Bible some words italicized, they do not occur in the oldest manuscripts we have. We do not have the original pieces of paper upon which the Bible was written. We all understand that, but it goes way back younger.

And in this sentence, they put in two words that make the rest of the Bible just silly. If, as I read now from the authorized version, that this is what the Bible actually teaches, then we just have to throw the whole thing out, because if you'll just notice at once, the fool has said in his heart, he's got too much sense to say it in his head, but in his heart, that means the thing that makes him tick. The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.

Now, if that is so, then we've got no Bible. For if there's one thing that's dead certain, it is that there has never lived a human being under this good eye who did not believe that there was a God. And yet here, apparently, the Bible is saying the fool, he's different.

He said in his heart, there is no God. But the words there is are in italics. And since it is true that God has done two or three things at least for every human being, one of them, he's given them a God consciousness.

Men know there is a supreme power. They just know it. They're just like, I used to listen to Amos and Andrew way back yonder when they were the rage of the radio 30, 40 years ago.

And Andrew was always talking about a woman's intuition. He meant her intuition. The most powerful argument any man ever went up against was when a woman answers for something she's done and says, just cause, just cause.

You can't do a thing except bow to it. Just cause. A woman's intuition.

Now, a man's intuition, he can't brag about it because it's given him a God, is that he knows there is a supreme being. Now, he may call himself an atheist, but he don't believe it. We read about atheistic communism.

Don't you believe a word of it. There ain't no such animal as a human being who actually believes there is no God. But if you read this verse without the italics and translate it literally from the original language, it reads like this.

The fool hath said in his heart, No God for me. As far as I'm concerned, there shall be nobody ruling in my life. Nobody's going to tell me what to do or what not to do.

Now, that makes sense, for that's a description of every human being that ever lived. Apart from the triumphal grace and overpowering mercy of God, men and women, boys and girls, are sending up messages every time they take a breath to the supreme being and said, as far as I'm concerned, No God for me. I will not submit to your rule.

That cry was first heard in the Garden of Eden when you and I in the loins of our father Abraham in such a way I can't understand it that the scriptures say that Rothbard had as much a part in it as did Adam and that Brother Parks and Brother Whaley and Brother Barnard and a whole lot of you folks out there. We rolled up our sleeves and spat on our hands and attempted to push God off the throne and mounted ourselves, saying we will not be under the restriction of a power from on high. That's the same cry that could be heard by the angels and make them weep and the demons to make them tremble when they hung the Lord Jesus Christ on a cross and sent a messenger after him and told the God of Eden that they hadn't changed their minds.

They still were saying we will not have this man to reign over us. That's the cry of lawless rebellion that goes up from the mouths of every human being. No God for me.

No God for me. I was born a rebel against authority. Men haven't got a thing on God's earth against God except his authority.

If he'd resign as the moral governor of the universe, if he would change his character and put on some side whiskers and be an old doting grandfather and wink at sin and turn the reigns of the world over to me, he and I get along just fine. But since he will not do that, the carnal mind is hostile to him and it's not subject to the law of God, neither can it be. We were born in a state of rebellion.

The little child nestling in the mother's arms proves its rebellious nature by kicking against anything that smells like authority. The best way on God's earth to get your child out of the house, how sweet it is, the best way on earth to see to it that your child does something is to tell them not to. They'll bust hell and heaven wide open to do something if somebody in authority tells them not to.

Why? It's their nature. It's their nature. My mother used to tell me how you could tell the difference between when the child was hurt and when it's mad.

When it's just balling up a storm, not a tear in its eye. It's just mad. It's just trying to get at God.

And since it can't get at God, it'll call it Pop or Mama or whoever lays the law down. Never was there a generation so reeking with the spirit of lawless rebellion against the authority of God as today. We were born rebels.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, according to the Bible, rebellion challenges the character of Almighty God. And he has to do something about rebellion. And since I've looked in the back of the book and have got the answer, I don't have to tear along over the problem.

The Bible certainly is crystal clear that the rebellion in every human heart is going to be crushed. God's going to put down the rebellion and Almighty God's going to win the war. And when the last battle has been fought on the throne will be the Lord God omnipotent.

There's no doubt about that. There's not a question on earth no human being is ever going to win in this war. We differ a great deal as I go up and down the land about things relating to the return of our blessed Lord.

But one thing we do know for certain, he's going to keep on doing exactly what he's doing now till the rebellion is put down and until this world is brought back under willing subjection to the rule of Almighty God. I believe if I had the time tonight I can prove with the Scripture that everybody that God sends to hell will say amen to his judgment before he's cast into hell. And I do know that this world is going to be brought under the subjective rule of my Lord.

And when it's brought there he's going to turn it back over to the Father says the Bible that God may be all in all. You know I like to turn over in the back of the book and get answers like that. Sometimes in the flesh we get a little weary.

I go from one meeting to another and sometimes have good meetings sometimes are bad sometimes it rains and sometimes it don't and sometimes the heavens seem to be closed and sometimes the showers come and we just keep going and sometimes you get a little weary and you'd like to take out a while and especially I'd like to be home a while and I couldn't take it I'm too weak the battle's not going so good today but tell you right now God's going to win the war and rebellion's going to be crushed thanks be unto the Lord rebellion's going to be crushed it's going to be crushed one way or another God crushes the rebellion in the hearts and spirits of some by his wonderful, wooing, mercy and grace and brings men and women to wear gladly and willingly and sweetly they bow to the blessed way of

the living Lord in their daily lives now a man isn't saved because he believes that Jesus is Lord the devils know that a man isn't saved just because he says that he believes Jesus Christ has been appointed Lord of all the devils know that a man isn't saved better listen to Brother Barnum until he is able to worship that ascended Lord to be saved just simply means to be changed from a rebel to a worshiper we all have our beliefs and our doubts but that's nothing there's nothing to that a man's a Christian if by the help of almighty God he's been able to sanctify the Lord in his heart and he knows what worship is if God almighty using the means he's chosen to use is unable to crush your rebellion by his wondrous goodness his marvelous long suffering his wimps and woes if he's unable to

gain your consent to the Lordship of the Savior and you're glad bowing off to it and worshiping him well then the scriptures say he'll make you bow he'll make you bow one of the most hell-filling lies that has almost been the heart of the popular gospel for these decades of time and men and women have been ashamed that they have a choice of whether they'll receive Jesus Christ or not but they do not have a choice amen God never did give you or me or anybody else a choice whether we bow to the Lord Jesus Christ now I have to say something I can't understand it's just so and I can't explain it men and women do have something to say not about whether they'll bow to my Lord but when whether you're going to bow to him doesn't mean settle honey you are every knee shall bow that's not only the

purpose of the gospel preaching that's not only the purpose of the coming of Christ but that is the set determination of almighty God that the rebellion shall be crushed and that men shall surrender throw down their arms it's not a question of whether you're going to bow to Christ you know it's it's a crushing load my brethren to share that truth in a world that don't believe it men and women actually think that they can dispose of Jesus Christ by keep saying no, no, no and you and I, we're Christians, we know they're wrong and we wish we could get between them and a continuation of that awful course and just wouldn't let them

go another step we could lock them in our arms and hold them there until our mercies gates are still open and grace still flows from the throne of God they could be

brought to a sweet bowing sometimes I wish I could take men and women and shake them until they had good sense sometimes the preacher especially wishes he could get in the flesh and use tricks and methods and gadgets but they won't work they won't work how helpless a person feels as he tries to witness to, or preach to men and women for whom one thing's been said they must bow to King Jesus and you wish they could be brought to the place they bow now and receive a pardon but you can't do it you just have to watch them grieve about it but one thing's dead certain you're going to bow the only way on earth that God can save a rebel is to bring him to throw down his arms and surrender and cease his rebellion if it were true that salvation becomes mine by believing some things I'd be different

hell is full of orthodox people believe all the doctrines leave the bible from cover to cover in its letter but salvation isn't at the end of believing some things salvation is becoming vital joined to not in this I got saved 30 years ago business but in a living daily walk with this living son of God the apostle Paul tells us in the book of Colossians as ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord so walk ye in him and it's foolish to talk about having received him if you're not walking the only way God can crush the rebellion in a man's life is to cross him to cross that man's rebellion at the point where it heads up you ever have a boy it comes to a head and it hurts and God Almighty has to invade and meet a man where the man's in a rebellion against it and cross that man's will

and crush it and conquer it if he can't do that he can't save a man I say those words can't I think from a biblical something God can't do he can't save a man any way or manner except by establishing his rule in your daily life and he can't establish his rule in a man's life till he crushes that man's rebellious will there never been but one question that mounted the hill of beans who reigns in your life you or the Lord Jesus Christ the devil must be cast out before the Lord's enthroned my Lord said you can't enter another man's house except you bind that strong man no way that God Almighty can bring salvation it's a wonderful word it doesn't mean much now everybody's saved and sleeping on the road to hell but salvation in the Bible needs to be made whole and a man whole when he rejoices

in being a slave to the Lord Jesus Christ all this stuff they call salvation even our fundamental circles now that use Jesus Christ as a doormat to keep them out of hell not interfere with the way we live nothing to that nothing to that oh thank God what many good men better than I am but this is ignorance all get out been preaching for 40 years ain't God ain't so I've heard it till it blew in the face that God will not violate a man's will I'm so glad that's not so I'm sure I'm glad he violated mine I'm sure I'm glad he conquered my old stubborn will ladies and gentlemen isn't it silly to talk about being saved unless the will of God is the supreme thing in your life isn't it silly to talk about salvation that leaves a man still in rebellion against the will of God my Lord said not

everyone that saith unto me Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven but who he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven you say that salvation by works no sir that comes from the lips of Christ and any salvation that doesn't bring you to the same place as get a fellow by the name of Saul or Tarsus where bowing prostrate you look up and say what wilt thou have me to do it's high time we begin to pay a little attention to the Bible yet all of my life I've preached to professing Christians that think the other fellow ought to serve the Lord why I've preached to a generation of church members now for 40 years the majority of them that think some people ought to be missionaries I've preached to people ever since I've been preaching that claim to be Christians and think that the

other fellow ought to give full time service to the Lord I've preached for 40 years to a generation of church people where we actually had services where people who claim to be Christians would surrender to do the will of God my God if they say they done done that why are people coming at me now brother by the name of Steve I'm not doing the will of God that's a joke it just can't be true that you are saved unless your faith is set and you heartily after the will of God for your life that's what salvation is oh that God would split the heavens in this generation when hell go before church members that had some sort of experience the will of God doesn't mean a thing on God's earth they don't know anything about salvation either and I'm not happy about it I just scream out against it and

I'll meet you at the judgment and tell you that's what it's all about your will Christ your will Christ your will conquered and God's will installed that's salvation that's salvation in other words if you go to hell it's because your will is at the place God's will must be somebody's got to win that battle the Bible has a scripture I don't know whether I know the meaning of it or not talks about if you offend the law at one point you're guilty of all I think this is what it's getting at I just think that I'm telling the truth now I do not know whether a single one of you people is a saved person or not I just have no way of knowing and so I'm not sitting in judgment or anything but it's always true that a man's rebellion against the authority of God that's what means to be a lawful man

always heads up in one thing all rebellion comes to a head like a bull every time the Holy Spirit crashes the totalitarian claims of Christ upon that man that thing like old David is ever before you when you see men trembling under the ruling of the Holy Ghost and yet they hang on for dead lives it's not a matter of ignorance it's a matter of a stronghold in their life they're defending and not willing for it to be destroyed none of us is perfect don't see any angel's wings but I'm telling you right now when the man or woman, boy or girl signs a peace treaty with whatever it is about your life that one thing you sign a treaty of peace with that and you're a dead duck my will heads up and that's one thing that will not heal I've had men say now preacher I don't want to go to hell well who

does they said preacher I want to get saved sometime well I'm not ready now and they're telling the God's truth there's something in their life and they are not ready for it to be dethroned and that's the reason they're going to split hell wide open not because there's ignorance that's it that's it and the way you're a billionaire where's that head up ladies and gentlemen the least little thing can damn you to hell and keep you rejecting rejecting rejecting the claims of Christ until you drop him to hell you don't have to be a big thing it just has to be a thing that you've made an issue of you see if I can illustrate in New Orleans a man said to the pastor I want to be saved but I'll never walk that aisle the pastor knew something about truth and he said you walk that aisle now or you'll

go to hell you see the man made an issue and told God one thing he must keep his hands off he said I want to be saved but I'll never walk that aisle now a man don't have to walk the aisle to be saved but for God's sake don't ever tell God you won't because he'll bust you and he'll crush you at what you said you wouldn't do and you'll do it or you'll split hell wide over a little thing a woman over here in West Virginia woke up the pastor at midnight brought him over he went to see him there they came woke me up about one o'clock in the morning made me mad heater boohooing around she said I just can't sleep at night and she said oh no the Savior of the soul and I want to get saved but sir my brother's pastor of another church and if I got saved and got baptized and break my brother's heart

I said I'm just not going to do that I said please leave sister I'm afraid this house will burn up you'll be pitched into hell and scared to death she's telling God she wouldn't be baptized why I was brought up in a

generation of folks and now honey we're not talking about going to church we're not talking about being baptized we're just talking about being saved that's their prayer and God says now tell you what I won't be saved I won't go to hell but I ain't going to be baptized you'll be baptized or you'll split hell wide open if you make that an issue with God that's right a fellow in Beckley West Virginia owned a big coal mine at that time and he had us out for dinner one time and he told me after dinner he said you know preacher I've made five professions of faith and I've walked

beyond joined the church and been ducked or whatever you call it five times and he said I'm still lost and he said I don't want to be saved worse than any man you ever saw but I'll never walk another isle and I'll never make another profession and I got my hat and I said goodbye and he said what's the matter and I said I'm scared to be around here I said I pray God will kill you and send you to hell before I can get off your porch you tell him God what you won't do and he did what he said he wouldn't do you just can't tell God there's anything on earth he can't touch ladies and gentlemen it's silly but rebellion always heads up at one place and it'll be crushed at that one place and your rebellion will die over that issue or you'll never be saved you'll never be saved and Mr.

Finney's day the old squire I guess he'd be the county judge or something now the old squire of the village he's going out there brother Finney and he got on the deep connection and every night at Mr. Finney's he'd tell about two miles down he said there's a place of prayer and anybody that's concerned about your soul you go down there and I'll meet you as soon as I can and the old squire he reads like this he said now a fellow don't have to go to that place to get saved well that's right of course he didn't have to and then he said I'm gonna be saved but I'm not gonna go to that place you see his rebellion is heading up over a little thing like that you see you see what he said was so but he made an issue out of it and told God what he wanted to do that's rebellion that's your own rebellion's heart dictating to God instead of submitting to it and the old boy he'd come to hear Mr.

Finney and he wouldn't go to the place of prayer and he got in an awful shape and he'd go home get down on his knees in his bedroom he'd just pray up a storm and he'd keep going hearing Mr. Finney and he'd go home and he got in a terrible shape and one day it came a cloudburst of rain and this old boy decided he'd show God how humble he was and how much he wanted to be saved so he went from the meeting and his big old metal right in front of the old squire's house and he got on his knees right there in the middle of the mud hole and just prayed up a storm nothing happened and finally he got up out of the mud hole and went where he said he wouldn't go and God met him God crosses a man's will at the place that will shows its rebellion against the all out authority of almighty God in your life and if he doesn't break you there he'll have to break you at the judgment and send you to hell but break you he will with me my rebellion headed up over one thing I think yours does too my rebellion headed up over a call to preach I was willing to do everything except the will of God for my life I was raised in a godly home when I was six years old I quote ten times more scripture than I can now used to bring me up in these sewer drills you know what they are memorizing and turning the scriptures every time the doors of the church opened Paul and Maura and us kids were there when I was ten years old I made a profession of faith preaching and baptizing eleven years later before I was saved everybody told me I was saved and I suppose there was until I got up about fifteen years old I went to college and I found out I wasn't saved how?

I had no supernatural power in here why I got into college life even in a good Baptist school there's plenty of hell going on there and I found you see people tell me it's hard to live a Christian life but the Bible tells me it's not hard to live a Christian life it's utterly impossible for anybody to live a Christian life and the Bible says that old Rothbard has got to have somebody living inside of him Christ all the devil had to do I had no

strength big enough to resist you hadn't either unless Christ lives in there and it's as usual case for the person that's been talked into a profession of faith and all that business to find out nothing's real that's pretty hard and then something began to happen to me when I was 11 years old missionary called a missionary I maintain any saved

person a missionary he just had to be a saved person that was serving the Lord over somewhere you know he came to town he saw a strange mouth come in because we was all a bunch of church members living like the devil hoping to keep out of hell not sure we didn't care about the will of God didn't know nothing about it you know what I'm talking about he saw the opportunity for the fellow serving God he saw to stick out in this day of so-called Christianity and when he got through preaching it wasn't scriptural but he did it anyhow and he had to stand and sing and he said how many people are here tonight that would like to make a vow say in the language of the old song I'll go where you want me to go dear Lord I'll be what you want me to be and so forth well that sounded good to me brother

and before I knew it by some power and I told that fellow I would I just as sincere as I could be I wasn't saved the fellow had sense enough to come in out of the rain he'd have sense enough to take a proposition like that up with me I didn't know I wasn't saved but that sounded good to me if this is God's will me like to have this place on God's earth fellow could be in God's will wherever God sent him be in whatever God wanted him to be and you know the tough thing about that is if you ever give God anything he never does give it back and if you ever make a vow you may forget it but under God he never does and he held my feet to the fire to make it still worse I didn't know about it till after the Lord saved me but before I was born my daddy and mother did what the old timers used to do

they gave me to the Lord to be a preacher they didn't tell me about it they knew about it and the Lord knew about it they weren't trying to help the Lord work it out I didn't know but God did and my mother and father did and of course any man that's ever been saved there's something done about that four year boy and if you're saved so that the will of God can be supreme in your life then there's something done about that four year boy and of course the fellas gonna be a preacher has to be called a preacher before he's born if you don't get the call before he is born he'll never get it afterward and I didn't know all that but I began to go through hell on earth I used to go hear the preachers till I was about 16 17 and I wanted to get up there and show them how bad I could taste it and I

knew for five long years and this may be strange that salvation for me meant to be a public preacher and I believe it meant for you to do whatever the will of God is for you for me that was it and I knew that surrender to King Jesus meant I'd have to be a preacher and that was one thing I was not gonna be in my junior year in college I received the promise of a scholarship in the world leading law university enough to pay all of my bills and I was approached by the head of the greatest civil law firm in Texas and when I got out of law school I'd come into their firm and I loved the law and doodlisty something fascinating about it and I wasn't gonna be a little rag tail one gallant preacher I'll tell you that and so I did what it seems like that most of the professional Christians have

been able to do I couldn't get the job done I tried to get God to save me without throwing down my rebellion but it just won't work you just can't do it you can call yourself a Christian till you split hell wide open until this matter of your rebellion where it's heads up is Christ there's no salvation and for five years I tried to get God to save me and every time conversations come up this thing that was ever before me ever before me ever before me you know it sounds silly but some people don't split hell wide open because of a ten cent sin they make it an issue and they say I will or not I don't care how little it is that's where your

rebellion heads up God don't crush you, you're gone I know what it is to pray and cry and seek everything else that's the reason I don't have a dime

worth of confidence and all this stuff they call getting religion today that you switch the job to killing them one job and make some sort of motion cry a little bit and call it salvation no! this will of God business stares in the man in the face are you waiting for the will of God to be done in your life that's salvation and now what? well a man's got to have some peace a man's got to have peace I never have opposed drinking whiskey if I was the average unsaved man and woman boy or girl today I'd stay about three-fourths tanked up with booze all the time at least you could sleep at night because you know you know if God don't send a revival in an hour a day this whole country is going to be one giant insane zone people's nerves are so raw now everybody's got to take a pill to go to

sleep and another to stay awake it's a sight on God's earth how near the ragged edge everybody is just exploding why? well the only thing that will give you real peace and soothe your nerves is a good dose of the Holy Ghost and the next best thing to it is a bottle of booze and I'd have one or the other so help me God I wouldn't live the way people live today snarling and grasping and grunting and groaning and can't sleep and can't do this and can't get along with each other why? brother a man's got to have something to relax him and calm his nerves ain't nothing like the Holy Ghost sweet will of God if you haven't got that you're in a bad shape I ain't trying to clean up this world I ain't trying to clean up the picture shows or the beer joints or all these things brother if we did this

country would go crazy ain't got God ain't got nothing to give them peace nothing to give them rest nothing to relax their old bodies if you haven't got the Holy Ghost you take the booze and all this junk away from them they go crazy and idiots can't be saved I've seen some drunk saved but idiots can't be that may sound like false doctrine you can shoot me if you want to but ladies and gentlemen you better listen to me a man's got to have something help him so he can sleep at night do his work by the day won't let their son take care of the children don't have the sweet peace of the will of God and the joy of the Holy Ghost you've got to have something and I had to have something I had to have something so I called myself an infidel now an infidel it's spelled I-N-F-O-R-H-E-L-L N for hell

of course I knew there was a God but I said he ain't going to tell me what to do and so I decided there wasn't one see I knew better and by day I preached there is no God and so help me God by night I begged him to save me that's the truth for five years I never went to bed at night I'd get down on my knees and talk to the one I'd been cussing during the day and say oh Lord if you won't kill me tonight I'll surrender to you tomorrow of course when the sun came up in the morning I said put it on that but a man got to have some kind of peace a man got to have a refuge isn't that right and so I got me one and I went so far as to organize an infidel's club God help me in a Christian college and every Friday night we'd meet we didn't have a special speaker I or somebody else would speak and

boy we gave God fits I ain't kidding you oh you well brother Ernest I'd go home that night in that college and get down on my knees and vow to God if he wouldn't take me that night I'd surrender to God I swear oh my I sure am glad that God does invade people's real I'm glad almighty God kept after me I'm glad he didn't cast me aside I'm glad he didn't say okay big boy just do what you can have for now back be unto God back of my salvation is a covenant making covenant keeping God and that's the only reason I'm saved the only reason nobody else ever gets saved to him be the glory I went through and graduated from that school went out to the panhandle of Texas teach school and I was going to work a year before I went to law school paid a few of my debts and I got out there and of course I

was a good Baptist I was a good church member all that time they never turned me out they're like typical church now anybody on God they're the easiest things on earth to get in and impossible to get out that's the church now mostly and I was a church member have you understand all the time I was a member of a church in a block of the campus of that school where I was president of the infidel club they never bothered me no and so I went out there to teach school in those days you had to be a church member if you got a job teaching in the public schools and so the first Sunday I marched down the aisle and joined the church by letter and of course I didn't go back that night I used to be a fool about this religion business and sure I wouldn't go Wednesday night and Wednesday night they had

a business meeting and I bet John Brown didn't let me teach them in Bible class that's right well I had to take it you know there I was but I suppose they didn't know nothing about me and I could put on a good show you know and I knew more Bible I learned it when I was a kid than those men did and we just had a storm but if I didn't go through hell I'll choose up and take sides and uh and I taught that Bible class and then the preacher is I and I went two, three Sundays I didn't have no preaching and I went home to my boarding house from Sunday school and I never did know why but I went in a room and locked it I could have got out but I didn't want nobody to come in and bother me and I threw the Bible down the floor and buried my faith in it and I said Lord whether you save me or damn me

I'll preach from now if ever I've got saved that's all salvation I've got when I was able to surrender to the claims of God in Christ for me and I don't know whether I got saved or not I hope so, I think so brother I ain't cocky about it some people our old time people had a hope you know we, I don't know what we got but I do know that ten million pounds lifted off of me and for the first time in years I had peace and I don't know whether that's salvation or not but what it was, it was awful good and so I got out of that room and I skedaddled over to the Sunday school superintendent's house and he is sound asleep waiting for dinner to be ready and some of his kids had the old fashioned big troller playing about a hundred miles an hour and he's asleep in up a storm and I went in with my

wonderful news and I turned that thing off and I woke the old superintendent up and I said brother my friends I've come to tell you God saved me and I want to preach next Sunday and that just ruined me and he said it's about time and that just hurt me I want them to just rejoice you know big shot I was you know but he didn't and I said well I don't understand it well he said things been going on you didn't know bro he said fool you came here we got a couple of letters from some woman named Barney down in Abilene, Texas one of them was written to the superintendent of the Sunday school the First Baptist Church and the other to the pastor she didn't know the name they were identical letters and we got them and that old lady down in Abilene said my boy's coming to teach in your public

schools and he's called to preach and he's going through hell and I want you to build a fire under him I don't think he can hold out much longer he showed me the letter that's what my mama said and the old superintendent said we got with the deacons and the pastor and we framed up Barney we knew it wasn't exactly according to order but we took a chance and we decided we'd build a fire under him and said we'd like you to teach some in Bible class and said we've been meeting once a week and begging God to pour cool oil on the fire and flush it out flush it out oh beloved as God is my judge your rebellion's got to go your rebellion's got to go let's have no more of this claiming to be friends of blood stained Jesus when we got a shotgun pointed at his very heart saying I will not have you

rule over me and I go up and down the land and I believe I tell people the truth when I say this don't wait

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Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/26/SID26885.mp3>  
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