

# Doctrine of Salvation

By Bob Vernon

Announcer:

Praises due we stand in awe of you work and move in our lives. Father this moment this place this hour may the things said and done bring honor and glory to you and to your son the Lord Jesus. Thank you for your servant that you brought. Thank you for Bob's life and his impact not only here at Biola but virtually around the world and with a sense of joy. We commissioned him to go out from this place. And as your representative to touch thousands of lives. Thank you for the miracle that you brought in his life.

For the lessons that we've learned through him and through the principles of the Word of God work and move in his life. Lord in days and weeks months and years to come. Thank you for a servant who has been a man of integrity and strength and courage. And for the example he's been to us. Thank you for your son the Lord Jesus and for his grace and our lives. In his name we pray in all God's people said.

You know the soccer team the men's soccer team they did a squeaker yesterday we with seven seconds to go I turned to the guy next to me and I said we have this thing won haven't we. And then the Masters scored with five seconds to go to put it into overtime but no sweat no problem. The Eagles were victorious forty three in overtime. To see.

[Applause]

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Them go down. As. Also although I wasn't there I got it from the mouth of the social chairman herself Barbara who said that the Lady Eagles who by the way the volleyball team who are by the way now ranked number three in the nation won last night as well.

[Applause]

I don't know if you appreciate the social board and what they're doing but I think Barbara's doing a great job let's hear it for her.

Barbara:

Social board is really excited to tell you guys about our number two event this year. It's gonna be next set next Friday night here in the gym and it's called after hours and it's gonna be it's gonna be an incredible night of fun games. The biggest twister game you've ever played in front. An inflatable trampoline called the moon jumps moon bounce. It's going to be cotton candy machine Shaved Ice popcorn. Incredible prizes like free meals to your favorite restaurants around here. So you're not going to want to miss out on this an incredible event. It is going to be here in the gym next Friday September 29 starting at 11:00 and all of this costs only two dollars. So you're going to want to be there. So see you there. Thanks.

Announcer:

Bob. Vernon and his wife oh his wife Esther is with them today Esther. Where are you? Well stand so that the people can recognize it.

[Applause]

Yes. Then as the largest Twister game in the world is that exciting during our days. You know you just had to take your wife roller skating at some rinky dink place but not any longer its class. That's class around here. Attention seniors. The rest may listen while I remind the seniors that their first Disneyland excursion will be this Saturday September twenty third. Thirty three and a club. Thirty three and a third club will be meeting with Mickey and friends at the 7 p.m. They say to gather around the mailboxes six thirty ish and you coordinate rides. The chapel board has done again a really excellent job in so many areas. Today they're doing a church fair.

The churches and the pastors are not here but material is regarding churches and Ministry Opportunities and directions and information about local churches not all but a number and they'll be represented. So keep that in mind as you leave today you'll have a chance to take in the ministry fair. We're so thrilled that Bob could be with us Monday Tuesday and Wednesday Friday to round out this week. JENNY KEE will be back along with Bambi in carnacion and you're going to enjoy her again as you did last year. Bob Vernon is leaving here to really hit points around the world and God has used his life in so many wonderful ways.

I'm just thrilled that for these three days we had a chance to hear him again to hear how God has worked in his life. We get a lot of preachers and preacher types and we love them of whom I am one. But it's nice to have no pun intended a blue collar person who can speak to professionals and about being the salt and light that we're all we ought to be for Jesus Christ. I know you guys have really appreciated Bob I'm inviting him to take the first minute or two just to tell you about

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his book and the special deal that he's giving us he would be modest to do that. But I've invited him to welcome him one more time to Biola.

[Applause]

Bob Vernon:

Good morning. Some of you remembered. I got a special. Incredible deal from the publisher on my book for Biola and so Biola will be getting the proceeds this morning and at that it's still being sold at half price. Ten dollars for the book L.A. justice I will go directly to the bookstore and sign it for those of you would like me to sign it. The good thing about having a signed book they tell me it's worth 25 cents more at a garage sale in five years. You know you might want to get my signature. Well let's get right into the message of today this is spiritual renewal. I yesterday talked to the seminary students at Calvary Chapel and I told them about what I'm calling social meltdown that is occurring in our city Los Angeles in this area and indeed in some degree throughout the United States.

Here's something right from the computer bulletin board from the Associated Press where it says even if Congress finishes this costly federal war on crime America should brace itself for a new surge of youthful violence when the political rhetoric dies down this unpleasant fact remains. Violence is committed disproportionately by young men. Yet population growth doesn't tell the whole story. Since the mid-1980s juvenile violence has grown far faster than the juvenile population. It goes on to describe some terrible things that are happening if you want to get the information on social meltdown you have to get the tape from yesterday because I don't have

time to go through it but suffice it to say we're in store for a tough five years and yet it's like the tale of two cities it was described as being this is the best of times they also were the worst of times and with the worst of times comes the best opportunities.

As scholar Michael Novak puts it quote we know pretty well today how to run an economy and make foreign policy. But we are having trouble with our culture the concerns gnawing at voters violent crime course and popular entertainment rising birth rates among unmarried mothers a sense that parents are not raising their children as well as parents were raised. Only 24 percent of the respondents told a recent times mirror poll that they were satisfied with the way things are going in the country. America is waking up folks. The fraying of America's social fabric here's another AP bulletin says has become a national obsession. Three out of every four Americans think we're in a moral spiritual decline.

Two out of three think the country is seriously off track and it goes on to describe a country that is very open to some answers. Many people are saying we're not only open to answers we're even open to answers that come from the Bible it's kind of like have we come to this. But they are saying we'll look at anything you've got answers we want to hear it and that is one of the reasons that I have virtually now a worldwide opportunity. I will be speaking to the group of young men I call them young because they're in their 40s who are about to be promoted to general the general officer rank in the Soviet Union or rather in Russia and I will be speaking in Moscow on October 10th and 11th for two days to these colonels who are about to be promoted general. And guess what I'll be talking them to about the Christian philosophy and ethic in police leadership and they're allowing me to do that including sharing of the Gospel and so this is incredible. We

live in the worst of times we live in the best of times incredible opportunities. You know what we need to be reminded of since this is spiritual renewal week is the relevancy of the gospel that it is still relevant. We have several major issues that we are dealing with the United States of America we're dealing with unresolved anger. You see it around you all the time you see it on the freeways.

You see it and racial riots you see it and racial confrontations between the various ethnic groups in our country we have a serious problem. Of people who have been discriminated against and who are discriminating and who are angry at one another because of that. That's a tremendous problem of guilt unresolved guilt. There is another problem of feeling trapped and unable to get out from one's condition. There is also a feeling of alienation and you know what the Gospel addresses all of these. I'm going to open the Word of God to you not as a preacher but as a cop who will give you a layman's perspective on the relevancy of four basic doctrines dealing with salvation that make it relevant to our society today.

Would you join me in prayer I always like to pray before I read the Word of God Father as we open your book again we acknowledge I acknowledge you are the author you have to be the teacher. I am just a sinner saved by your grace and I'm grateful for that. But God you need to teach this morning. We invite you. In Jesus name amen. First of all.

We are taught in the doctrines of the Bible the doctrine of reconciliation. I want to read to you from the Book of Colossians where it says some things happened when Jesus came to Earth and died for us. I'm reading from vs. 19 on it says for it was the father's good pleasure. This is

Colossians 1:19 for all the fullness to dwell in him. This is speaking of Christ and through him to reconcile. There is that word I want to focus in on all things to himself. Having made peace through the blood of his cross through him I say whether things on earth or in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind engaged in evil deeds. Yet he has now reconciled you in his fleshly body through death in order to present you before him wholly and blameless and beyond reproach.

When Jesus died in the cross he reconciles what is reconciled mean well it means two people who were enemies. Now become friends. They're brought back together. And many of you are probably saying well I was never really an enemy of God. That's not what the Bible says. It says we were all hostile in our minds toward God. And then I've noticed the strange phenomena as a police officer when people are angry. Whoever they're angry at whether it's the police or whether it's a politician or whether it's a racial group or whatever when they get together and demonstrate their anger instinctively they do something. You've noticed it. You've seen it in the TV clips. They raise their fist. And their eyes. And it's incredible. There's a there's an upward look and a clenching of the fist. It's a natural phenomenon. You see at the bottom of all of our anger is our anger toward God in our natural state. We can't help but demonstrate by looking toward him and raising the clenched fist. It's a natural phenomenon. The Bible says we were all hostile in mind but you know when Jesus died on the cross you know what he said the war is over. Not angry at you. I want to save you. I want to come down and die in the cross of Calvary and be your savior. I want to take away your anger. I want to take away your hostility. I want to give you peace instead of anger.

One night we were chasing a stolen car it was in East Los Angeles and we quickly crossed the border from the city into the sheriff's area. And in those early years when I worked the radio car we didn't have the ability to talk to the sheriffs. We can only talk to other LAPD cars and so we were on our own we weren't getting any help. And so the chase led into the city terrace area of Los Angeles. And it's kind of hilly and the young men who were driving the stolen car they were all under the age of 15 weren't real good drivers and they were going a little too fast for their driving skills. They went around a corner.

They weren't around to fast and it was in a hilly area and suddenly before eyes were very shocked to see this car hit a telephone pole in the last we saw the car was rolling upside down in midair and going over a 200 foot cliff with three young children in it. I was so shocked. I don't know if it was myself who had said the wrong thing over the radio but we had been radioing our position trying to get some help.

We were in pursuit. And I said 4J9 which was our unit number 4J9 the car we were just chasing just went over 200 foot cliff. I'm requesting an ambulance of the fire department heavy equipment. I was kind of emotionally involved. I just seen this horrible sight. And I don't know whether I said it wrong or whether the long pursuit and then this dramatic broadcast upset the operator but she came across this is all you know it's on our frequency standby. 4J9 just went over 200 foot cliff. I guess she thought I was broadcasting on the way down send for the ambulance. Tell my wife I'll be late you know.

Well we finally got a straight not I said no was a car we were chasing I got out of the car I walked to the edge of the cliff and instead of looking at the bottom and seeing down in this revving a ball of fire I saw an amazing sight. You see the cliff wasn't sheer up and down it was somewhat of an angle. And here was a car on its side and I wondered how it could be that way.

And then I realized what had happened when they hit the telephone pole and it turned over the left where wheel it somehow jerked the cable guideline that supports the telephone pole out of the ground. It got tangled up in the wheel and the car was there rolling back and forth dangling supported by this telephone pole it was creaking and leaning over. And the young men started to come out of the car. That was about 15 feet from the edge of the. Of the road. And I said I had my big police three cell flashlight and I said this way up here. My partner and ran over and got a hose a garden hose from a house on the other side of the street and we were going to throw the hose to them and bring them off the car. And the first kid out. Still saw us as cops that were chasing him. They didn't realize our role had changed from pursuer to savior and he said No man I'm going to make it.

And I didn't know where it was going to make but I know I took my flashlight and I flashed it down into the ravine and I said buddy you better see where you're where you're hanging right now and I'll never forget as his eyes went down a flashlight beam they got bigger. They went down the beam. And he turned back and he said would you still like to help us. And I said this way and we got him the rope or the other the hose and we ended up getting all three of those young men out of that car.

You see the war was over. We were no longer interested in arresting them. We wanted to save their lives. Our purpose had changed. And for an instant they didn't realize that at least the first guy in a car didn't. You know a lot of people don't realize that with God they still perceive God as some kind of a cosmic killjoy that wants to blot out any fun or fulfillment they might have. They don't realize that Jesus said I've come that you might have life and have it more abundantly. And I've come to reconcile you. I wanted a clear not an armistice you know an armistice is this that you know a temporary treaty takes place and everybody takes time to reload. Jesus said the war is over. This isn't a truce. This is the end of it. I've come to save you. I've come to reconcile you.

The second problem that society deals with today and its present here in this room I know it is a group this size it's all of these issues we're talking about have to be present. I know the great majority of you. Ninety nine point nine probably have a personal relationship with Christ but there's a few that don't. In a group this size there always is. And those of you who do have a personal relationship with Christ. Many of you are still struggling with unresolved guilt you know unresolved guilt is the number one cause I'm told by people who seem to know of mental illness aside from the chemical imbalance that often occurs and I'm not talking about that I'm talking about mental illness it's caused by the wrong kind of thinking unresolved guilt can be a terrible thing. Let me read you what Jesus said. Through the words of the Apostle Paul.

In the book of First Corinthians. Here's what he says. First Corinthians chapter 6 verse 8. On the contrary you yourselves wrong and defraud. And that. Your brethren. Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived neither fornicators nor

idolaters nor adulterers nor effeminate nor homosexuals nor thieves nor covetous nor drunkards nor revivals nor swindlers shall inherit the kingdom of God and such. Where are you? Whoa.

But then he says. But you were washed. You were sanctified. You were justified. That's the word I want to focus in on now. We talked about reconciliation. The second doctrine of salvation. I want to talk about this morning is justification. What is justification? It's a guilty person. That is declared righteous by the one that has the power to do that. And you know only God can do that. And that's exactly what he's done. He has said you were justified. You're guilty but I'm telling you I declare you righteous. If you stand in me. Hebrews eight twelve applies. He said I will remember your sin no more. Only God has the ability to touch the delete button. There are a lot of things you would like to forget that you can't. The word of God says I will remember your sin no more. It's gone. You stand before him and say you know there's a lot of things that I'm kind of sorry about and I became a Christian. But God I still am carrying this weight of this I did as I I. I had sex before I was married. I had an illegitimate child whatever it is you know that you've been involved I just can't forget that God gets what do you say. What was he talking about? I don't remember. It's gone. You're under the blood. It's forgiven.

We arrested a man one time for. Exposing himself. To some children at a playground. He was a businessman. He was in a Lincoln Town Car. And a three piece suit. At least part of it. He'd taken part of it all. He. Was a pervert. As I was arresting him and going through the process of booking him at the station one of the things we do is we look for visible marks and scars and deformities so that later on if we're looking for him we know what to look for. And I checked his face out just to look at his face real quickly and I saw a series of scars or hear his chin look like

vertical cuts of some kind. I said that's an interesting series of scars you had there. How did you get that? He said. Well. I did it for the first time I realized this guy was real emotional about what was happening. He could see his career going down in flames. He probably going to be fired. I don't know what happened as far as his job but. I doubt if a company that he was employed by would want him anymore after he was caught doing what he was doing. And I said you mean you did that on purpose. He said yes. Tears begin to well up in his eyes and he said. This is the first time I've been arrested for doing this. But I've done it before. And when I get in my room and I look at myself in the mirror. I can't stand to look at myself and I reach in the cupboard and I pull out a razor and I cut myself on the chin. You say. That's kind of sick and weird. Yeah. You know that's what unresolved guilt can do to people. It's what it did to him. He felt somebody had to punish him. He punished himself and some of you were involved in self-flagellation of some of some sort. Some kind of punishment because of unresolved guilt.

Bible says that when we come to know Christ he takes our sin and remembers it no more. The Bible says in Psalms 1 or three as far as E is from the West. Make a little mental note here could have selected north and south. But he didn't because there's a measurable distance between the north and south pole. He selected east and west because they got into infinity. They never mean that's how far your sin has been removed. If you're into the black. And not only do you need to understand this. You need to take this message to people who are hurting because of unresolved guilt. And unresolved anger we've talked about. The third thing I'd like to talk about quickly is the concept of being trapped. Being a slave being unable to experience full freedom. Bible says Jesus came to redeem us. 1 Peter 1:18 says this knowing that you were not redeemed.

There's a word I want to focus in on here with perishable things like silver and gold from your feudal way of life inherited from your fathers. But with a precious blood as of a lamb unblemished and spotless the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus redeemed us. He not only reconcile this he not only justified us when he died in the cross. He redeemed us. That's an interesting word. I've run into that word in my law enforcement work when I was a detective. My first assignment I wanted to work homicide. I eventually got to work. But I had to start working. We used to call it hubcaps and in and fender skirts because in those days that's what they would steal from cars now they steal the whole car. And in one of our precincts we have 30 cars stolen a day in the area in Rampart right out by Hollywood. But I had to start working property crimes and one of the things we do doing property was missing from a car from later on as I worked up to being a burglar investigator of houses. We'd go to pawn shops. At a pawn shop as a pawn shop somewhere where they take items. And they say I need some money I need some food and I've got this watch that I inherited from my grandfather and I don't want to sell it.

But I need some money and you put it in what they call hock or you pawn it. You put that watch in there and they give you so much money usually far less than its worth. And the whole idea is that when you do get on your feet you can come back and you can redeem. That's the word they use actually in the pawn shops. You can redeem the watch. It's kind of like it's in jail you see. And you got to pay money to free it up. And that's the meaning of this word. Being redeemed is it saying you're a slave that's been set free. A lot of you're saying I've never been a slave. That's been over for a couple hundred years. Guess what. The Bible says we've all been slaves to sin. Whether we recognize it or not. We've been slaves.

I remember earlier my career. Being in a radio car and chasing down a burglar and. He was wanted on top of the burglary that we caught him in the process of. He had warrants we knew him I knew his name we'd arrested him before he was a hype. A heroin addict hopelessly addicted. He couldn't stay away from it. He'd be in jail and soon as you get out he would start using and then he'd start stealing again. And I was working with a guy named Jack Collier on this particular day and my regular partner was often Jack was an old tough guy smoke cigars and had a cigar inside his mouth and when we saw this burger he said Okay kid you get him I'll grab the car. So I jumped down and began chasing this guy and. I had a uniform on that I had paid a lot of money for in those days we had to buy our own uniforms and. When he went over chain link fence I was a little slow getting over that fence and he was I didn't want to catch those barbs on the top and rip a hole in my uniform and so when I got down on the other side he was out of sight. He had eluded me. I went back to the car and kind of sheepish and Jack said well where is he. I. Said he got away and got away some hide got over it he's got out the Academy just had a runs seven miles what's wrong with you. Get in here. I got in a car and we started driving.

Pretty soon we chased him up again he said Now get him this time and I took off and the second time he did the same thing. I lost him came back. I can't believe it. Jack said. Get in. We drove around somewhere we found in the third time I jumped out a guy's said as I was running down. He better not get away this time. And he did the same thing went over another fence this time over into the L.A. River right alongside the old Pabst Brewery there in North Maine and. In over this fence into the L.A. River area. I came over the fence and he had gain on me a little bit and I decided he's not getting away the way the law was at that time. Not only did you have the right to shoot a fleeing felon who had felony Warren's outstanding for his arrest but it was your

obligation if all other attempts failed and I had lost him twice and so I pull out my gun. And I brought it up and as I was running I was sitting over the sites and not watching too much where I was running and I ran into some bed springs. And just before doing that somebody had thrown some trash over them over the fence into the river area and.

As I was sighting him I was yelling at him. Alfred I'm going to shoot and I hit the bed springs. And down I went and the uniform I had been so careful to protect suddenly had a big hole in the knee and. I had ripped open some of the flesh in my knee and I forgot about him and I reholstered my gun and I was sitting there alongside the bed springs and I was pulling gravel out of my kneecap and trying to do something to cleanse the wound a little bit and all of a sudden there was a shadow over me and I looked up and there was Alfredo. His name was Alfredo Palomares. I'll never forget him. He said Vernon Are you hurt. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you man. And I'm thinking I'm ready to kill this guy and he's worried about my knee. You know from that point on I've never been able to shoot and anybody running away I don't care what the law says. You know I just I have been able to do it. And I got up and I quickly put the handcuffs on him and took him away to jail you know. Alfredo Palomares did his time for that burglary and he was out about a year later. And within weeks. He stole everything that was a value from his mother sold it. Bought some heroin. And died of an overdose at age 27.

Alfredo was a slave. I'm sure he didn't look upon himself as a slave. But he was you see you can be a slave and not knowing the Bible says. You're either a slave to God or a slave to sin one of the other it's just that simple. The world needs to hear this message and you're the people that are being trained to take it and you need to be encouraged about the relevancy of today's Gospel. It

not only reconciles and does away with the hostility and anger that people have. It not only deals with the guilt that people have. But it sets people free. That doesn't mean that when you become a Christian you don't sin. But it does mean this. You don't have the sin. Before you your Christian you're helpless you can't help it. You have no other cars you have no power. You have no inner strength. You don't have the Holy Spirit he can't help you. You're a slave to sin we accept God's plan when you allow that Jesus died on the cross to come in and save you. He set you free. You redeemed.

The last one. I want to talk about is the doctrine of adoption. This is my favorite. This is the best one. Galatians the fourth chapter. Marvelous series of versus beginning with verse 4. But when the fullness of time came God sent forth his son. Born of a woman born under the law in order that he might redeem. There's that word again. Those who were under the law that we might receive. Here it comes the adoption as sons and ladies. When the Bible was written it was written in the masculine. But it is inclusive and it means. Male and female so we'll add sons and daughters. And because you are sons and daughters God has sent forth the spirit of his son into our hearts. Crying Abba father as you know that's an enduring way of kind of like dad father. Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son. And if a son then an heir through God.

We're talking about the doctrine of adoption and this one just blesses my heart. In the first doctrine we were enemies that were reconciled to be friends in the second one. We were guilty declared righteous in the third doctrine. We were slaves to be set free and then this last one. We were alienated. Now to become sons and daughters of God Himself the creator of the universe. It's incredible. You don't have to feel alone anymore. You belong. We were behind Wilson High

School one day and. Coming up that back row there was a car approaching us a late model Chevy four kids in it. They didn't know how to drive too well. We suspected they didn't own the car. So as they passed us although we were in a plain car you know one of those kind where everybody knows who we are.

Late model Ford Chevy or Plymouth no chrome 3 aerials and two big guys with shades looking a you know we're giving these guys the cop look you know in a very strange thing happened as the car passes the kid who is driving jumps in the backseat. Now the is driverless and. It jumps a curb and hits a tree and all four doors open up and everybody splits. And I said to myself that's a clue you know and so we got out and.

We gave pursuit and I caught the kid it was driving and jumped in the backseat my partner cars got caught another get to make a long story short as we're talking with this kid I said Why did you jump in the backseat for man. He said Hey man I may be stupid and out from New York but I know what's happening on the West Coast. I said what's that. He said everyone knows it's a dude who is drive and gets more time than the kids who were just joyriding. I wanted to be a joy rider when you guys busted us. Really thinking you know. We found that this young man who initially wouldn't give us his name and so we nicknamed him York. Didn't have a father and didn't have a mother as. His mother was dead and his father had split soon as he found out that his mother was pregnant. He never knew his dad didn't even know his name. And he was. Living with his grandmother who was bedridden. My partner. Who had been seriously wounded in the battle of Bastogne had been given large amounts of sulfa it had not made him impotent but it had made him sterile.

Couldn't have any children and used to admire my son and he used to tell me Bob how lucky you are to have a son. I need a son but still I was kind of surprised when three weeks later at a pre detention hearing a juvenile hall and the judge was about to send this young man away. Nick raised his hand said Sir it appears to me that this young man needs a father. He said you know what I need a son. Could I take him home to be his dad? Would this court award the ward ship of this boy to me you know there were a few wet eyes in court that day mind you would want them.

And Nick. Got the award ship of York. And to this day York is a grown man and. He loves Nick and Helen so much because of what they did for him. I'll never get what the judge said he said do you realize that you're taking home a boy that you know very little about you but you do know this he's a thief. And then I think about what God knows about us. He knows everything about us. He knows every lousy dirty thought we've ever had he knows every evil deed we've ever committed and yet he wants to take us home with him. He wants us to be in his family. He wants to adopt us. He wants us to be his sons and daughters. He wants us to live with him forever in heaven. An alienated loner becomes a member of Gods forever family.

The Gospel addresses the problems of hostility and anger. It addresses the problems of guilt. It addresses the problems of slavery. It addresses the problems of alienation. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is relevant and the world is ready. I read you the articles give us some answers. Our culture was falling apart. You have the answers at Biola you get the answers number one have you accepted the answers yourself and Number Two. Are you ready to share? This is spiritual renewal week I want to conclude by quoting John Gardner from one of his books on renewal and he says this societies are renewed. And then he enters the intersperse or puts in a very horrifying

parenthetical phrase if they are renewed at all. That's kind of scary. By people who believe in something. People who care about something. And people who are willing to take a stand for something. And my question to you is in light of what you've been reminded of today are you willing to take a stand. For God. We're going to close in prayer.

But I want to ask this question are you here knowing all about the gospel but never having taking your beliefs to the point of commitment like I talked about Monday. Have you never asked Jesus to come into your life? You need to do that first. Are you a Christian that has unconfessed sin that you just are carrying this guilt about you need to get rid of it? I want to make this statement very clear. I hope a lot of people don't get up on their feet right now frankly because I only want the ones that God has sincerely spoken to. But if a revival is to begin what a better place to begin than right here at Biola. If God is spoken you through this message or through something in your life the past week or so two weeks whatever. And. You want to be accountable I'm going to suggest something. I'm going to suggest in just a moment when I tell you to you stand to your feet and by so doing what you will be doing now listen carefully because this is serious. Don't stand capriciously. You will be inviting the people who know you or the people around you to ask you the question why did you stand and that will force you to have to say I stood because and articulate that. Accountability will attached to that. We make decisions. We talk to God we say yes I want to do this. But we quickly forget unless we're accountable. If you have the courage. And if you've been so motivated by God to do something then I want you to stand and invite those that know you to ask you why did you stand are there any who would like to do that. If so get to your feet right now. May it begin here. At Biola we'll wait ten more seconds if you're gonna stand. Get up there right now.

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God be with you. Now let's all stand and we'll pray. Father you know what's on the hearts of these who have stood. You know what their commitment is now cause. Those that know them to come to them and give them the courage and the forthrightness to state exactly their commitment to you. God bless them. God be with him. God help us. We need you. God bless the United States of America. In Jesus name amen

[Applause]