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- 00:16 This podcast is a production of Penn State Cru. Cru is a community where the gospel captures hearts, transforms lives and launches men and women into a lifelong adventure with Jesus Christ. To find out more information, visit pennstatecru.org.
- 00:37 Anyways, our speaker for tonight is Greg Boros. If you don't know Greg, because you're new or you're a freshman, you soon will. And be excited. He graduated from Penn State last year and is currently living in State College with his beautiful wife, Elise. And Greg is a fanatic of ten gallon bucket hats, and he's obsessed with Wikipedia.
- 01:02 And by obsessed, I mean, it's his job. He loves Wikipedia. So ladies and gentlemen, Greg Boros. The last time I was invited to give the full message at Cru was two years ago and I was preaching the gospel and I was talking about how Jesus was fully God and fully man. And when I was talking about him being fully man, I used the phrase, "Jesus pooped just like the rest of us".
- 01:32 It's taken two years to be invited back. None of that tonight. Before we get started, we need to pray. So please buy your heads with me. Father, we need you here tonight. I need you 'cause I'm losing my voice. I also need you because I need you to speak through me and teach everybody everything you taught me as I looked at this passage. Furthermore, the people anybody listening need you. They need to have their ears and their hearts open to what you have to say.
- 02:01 By the way, thank you for the Bible and the truth in it and the joy it is in my life. Amen. Okay. No Jesus pooped. However, Philippians and Bowman, if you could throw that up, it's a chapter one of Philippians versus 27-29. If you brought a Bible, you can get it. If you didn't or if you want to go off the translation I did, it's right there. But before we, before we launch in real quick on Philippians and Paul.
- 02:30 This book of the Bible was originally a letter written to the church in Philippi, which is a church that Paul founded. And if there was one thing about Paul, just kind of his great equalizer across the human race, whether he knew you for a minute or a decade - the thing that he'd ask you, the first thing out of his mouth is, do you know Jesus Christ? Do you believe he was who he said he was and he did what he said he did.? And you'd answer yes or no. And if you answered yes, his next question would be, what are you going to do about it? Because you see if there was one, if there was one phrase, one sentence, you could use to sum up Paul's life.
- 03:02 It's actually a remark that he penned a little earlier in the same in the same letter. I think it's verse 21, but he says, for me to live his Christ and to die is gain. You see, Paul asked those same questions of himself. Do I know Jesus Christ? I do. What am I going to do about it? And this whole life was spent living out the faith that he found in God. You see that? Take a cross section of life.
- 03:27 Your life, where you live, who you talk to, what you do, what's important to you, your thoughts, your plans, your hopes, your dreams, your business adventures, your... how you spend your resources, everything. To live is Christ and to die is gain. And yet, and yet he loved the lord so much that he would have laid that down in an instant. He would have died in an instant for death is gain to go and be with the lord in heaven. That relationship was that important to him. And my question is, how in the world do you get to that point in your own faith?
- 03:57 Where to live is Christ, and to die is gain. It's an important question. It's something I think you need to consider. And I think there's good stuff to learn out of this passage. And so the way that we're going to do is kind of just systematically go through it and see what we dig out. So I'll read it. But if you want to follow along. Verse 27, "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ. So that whether I come and see you or am absent, I'm a hero of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.
- 04:28 And do not in any way be terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of Salvation. And that from God. For to you, it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in him. But also to suffer for his sake." There's a lot of stuff packed into that passage. And so we're going to rewind to the beginning and work our way through it. Verse 27, "only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ." Now, conduct, usually when you're asking about someone's conduct, we're talking about just their actions, what they do, right?
- 05:00 But your conduct is actually your actions, your thoughts, and your belief. It's what you do, what you think, and what you believe. And Paul is saying, so let your actions thoughts and beliefs be worthy of the gospel of Christ. Now, usually when you hear the word worthy, you think it means deserving you know. If so and so is worthy of something, that means they deserve that. That's going to be bestowed on them. But that is exactly not what Paul means in this instance. How do I know that?
- 05:28 Because if you know one thing about Paul, it's that he beat the drum that you can never do enough good things in your life to impress God. You can never do enough good things to be worthy of the gospel of Christ. You can never earn Heaven by being a good person. Read anything he's written- read the New Testament. Read Romans, especially, read the end of chapter three in the beginning of chapter four of Romans where we learn that justification being right with God spending eternity in heaven with

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God comes by grace alone by the grace of God bestowed through faith alone.

- 06:03 You making Christ the lord of your life apart from works of the law. So whenever Paul writes, only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, he's not saying what you think say do and believe be deserving of the gospel. He's more clearly saying, let it be clearly indicative of the fact that you have been saved by the gospel of Christ. Let everything you think, say, do and believe, be clearly indicative of the fact that you've been saved by the gospel of Christ. Sounds easy, right?
- 06:33 It gets harder. "So that whether I come to see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs that you stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. So that whether I come to see you or am absent", whether I'm up in your grill or not, whether I make it back to Philippi or not. I'm serious. You got some great teachers here at crew Henderson, Hersch, Andy, all the new staff, your Bible study leaders, your disciples. Your Christian friends, there's people on your back constantly.
- 07:00 To have integrity of faith, integrity of belief and practice, as you figure out what this relationship with Christianity is about. But Paul is saying, look, look, look, whether I'm into your life, and I know all your skeletons in your closet because we've all gone them or not, it's your duty to make sure that you're actions, thoughts, and beliefs are clearly indicative of the fact that you've been saved by the gospel of Christ. Are you kidding me? It sounds impossible.
- 07:29 It sounds utterly impossible. You see, Paul is basically saying that you need to have integrity of belief and practice if you're going to call yourself a Christian. and I think he gives advice to that in this passage. And I think the first little tidbit here how to have integrity of belief and practice is right here in verse 27. "May I hear your affairs that you stand fast in one spirit" You stand fast. What's a sentiment he's going for?
- 08:00 Do you ever see that poster? It's really famous. It's a lighthouse. Only it's one of the ones that are actually out in the harbor instead of building on a cliff. And this wave is like crashing into the back of it. And you have the little light keeper, like, you know, like huddled on the protected side is these walls of furious water like rush past them 20 feet above. That. That lighthouse. Stand fast. Be immovable, be solid, be unchangeable, and do not budge in your conviction.
- 08:31 Was Jesus Christ who He said He was? Did He do what He said He did? If you answer, yes, then be solid in that. There's this saying that me and a couple of my closest friends kind of picked to be the banner that flies over our life. It's this old maritime expression. It requires a little bit of explanation. Whenever two ships would be sailing on the open sea, I think like 1600s through 1800s, you know?
- 08:58 And you'd see another ship on the horizon, right? You would run your flag up the mast. That's called flying the colors. You probably know that if you saw Pirates of the Caribbean, right? And by flying a colors, what you were doing, it was a twofold action. One, you were showing you were identifying yourself and two, you were able to see who you were dealing with. Whenever you run a flag up the mask, whenever you fly the colors, you're saying, this flag, this symbol of my country, that's my homeland.
- 09:28 That's where my family is. That's what I stand for. That's what I believe. That's what I sail for. That's what I'll fight for. That's me. That's my identity. And when you're looking, this other ship would raise their flag, you would see, okay, that's a friendly nation. You'd sail on. Goodbye. Or maybe it was a nation that your country was at war at, in which case you were looking at battle in the open seas. You'd ready to cannons. You do all that cool stuff you see in Pirates. You know, where you try to broadside each other and, you know, firing and cripple a ship and then board it and there's another battle.
- 09:59 And one ship eventually loses. Right? They're boarded and they're defeated and the people are led. Prisoner off of their ship into the brig of the other ship, and that flag gets lowered. The losers flag comes down. I understand that to some captains of some ships that was unacceptable. Totally unacceptable. Surrender, being taken prisoner, any reason that flag would come down.
- 10:28 And so when I said run up the colors, their next order would be nail the colors to the mast. Literally, have whoever's the most monkeyish onboard, climb up the mast. And now the flag to the mast. And that's a really old fashioned way of saving, leave it all in the field. Nail the colors to the mast. We will win the day, or we will die in the service of our country. But we will not surrender, and we will not be taken prisoner.
- 10:59 Let the colors be nailed to the mast. That is what Paul is going for in verse 27. When he says, "stand fast...For the faith of the gospel." Stand fast for the faith of the gospel. That utter surrender, that total conformity to Christ's will. Jesus taught all the time. He said that read the New Testament. He said to men and women time and time again, that you got to leave your family, you got to leave your plans, your reputations, your hopes, your dreams, your jobs, whatever, if it's getting in the way of my relationship with you because there's one thing that matters.
- 11:32 And that's to follow me. Jesus said that all the time. Read Luke 14:26 sometime. Read a lot of the teachings of Jesus. Where he repeatedly points out that following Him is the only thing that matters. And in a certain light, it seems very costly, but Christ is crystal clear that no matter how high the price might seem, the key to finding any lasting hope and peace lies in following Him. John 14:6 says, Jesus says, "I am the way the truth and the life.
- 12:05 None come to the Father except through me." Through Him? Well, yeah, by following Him. He says, in Mark 18:34, "If anyone wishes to be my disciple, then he must deny himself, pick up his cross and follow me." He must deny himself he must take the family, the job, the plans, the whatever. Subordinate it to his faith in me, he must pick up his cross. Pick up his cross, what does that mean? That's an expression. But it means to make Christ the Lord of your life.
- 12:31 It means Jesus is saying, deny all I say to deny and accept all I say to accept. Make me lord of your life. And follow me. And initially, that seems really, really costly. And initially it is, because in order to stand fast for the faith of the gospel, you have to

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subordinate everything to the gospel. You have to nail the colors to the mast. The second bit of advice Paul has for how to have integrity of belief in practice is to strive.

- 13:01 So we've got our lighthouse. Immovable. And then we have strive. Striving together for the faith and the gospel constant movement forward into your relationship with God. It's taking any and all steps necessary to completely submitting yourself to God so that He can make clear his plans. So that He can actually be the Lord of your life in deed, instead of just in word. It's what Oswald Chambers was an old writer. He wrote about something called the white funeral. It's letting your plans and what you think is best for you, die
- 13:33 so that God has the room to show you what truly matters. It's Matthew 11:12 and 18:9. It's flying your colors and screaming at the sea. This is my Jesus. This is my homeland. This is what matters to me. This is where my family is. This is my identity. Dietrich Bonhoeffer famously famously wrote and I love this. That "true grace is costly grace. It's costly because it costs a man in his life. And it is grace because it gives a man his life."
- 14:12 Make no mistake. You need to know, no matter where you are in your faith journey, that it is not always fun. And rainbows and cake and koalas and sunshine. But I'm serious though, like some of you are like brand new Christians, right? And you're in that blessed little cocoon that God gives us all where it's like puppy love. I'm a Christian, and I found 300 friends, and it's fun and I went to Fall Retreat. And that's beautiful. I love that. And you need that. But some of you are a little further on in your faith. And you find out that it's not the easiest thing in the world. You typically don't bust into a party down on beaver ave and say, yo, I'm a Christian. Everyone's like, sweet. And they go back to what they were doing. That doesn't happen. People don't really accept your faith a lot of the times. Some of you have been a Christian for a while, and your faith is growing cold. There's a tragedy that's too big. There's a sin that's too sweet.
- 15:05 There's a Christian or a Christian teacher that's too hypocritical. Or it's just too hard to wake up day after day after day, and admit that someone other than you knows what's best for you. I have to remind you in the most loving way possible that your decision to be a Christian wasn't a decision in a static moment. It's not a declaration of faith, praying a prayer and going back to life as usual. It's beginning a relationship with the creator of the universe and the savior of your soul.
- 15:36 And just like any love relationship that you're in, there's no love relationship you're in, where you're not changed. So like any other relationship, you're going to be changed. And sometimes, changes unpleasant. Really! I mean, it's not hard for us all to admit like, yeah, God's all knowing and supremely good. And whatever. But, you know, turn it around. Does God know better than you do? What's best for you? And all of a sudden, that response sticks on your tongue a little easier. It's easy to kind of bulk at that.
- 16:07 Why do I bring this all up? While this talk of, regardless of circumstance or situation, regardless of whether your life is easier or hard, whether or not your teachers are up in your grill or not. Why is it important that everything you think, say, do and believe be clearly indicative of the fact that you were saved by the gospel of grace? Why am I pointing out that that's going to be hard? Because it's true! Because no matter how young or mature your faith is, it will be beset by adversaries along the way. And the adversaries of the gospel have taken better men and women than you and me.
- 16:39 Do you understand that it's not always going to be that easy. I want you to look at verse 28 with me. "And do not, in any way, be terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of Salvation and that from God." Do not, in any way, be terrified of your adversaries. When Paul wrote this, it was to a group of Christians. It was about people that were opposing Christ in Philippi. But they had the same web of human connections that you do.
- 17:06 And so who could be an opponent of the gospel and adversary of your faith in your life? Some of you are smirking and saying like, everybody, duh. But start at the center and work your way out. What about your parents? Some of you don't have parents that like the fact that you're a Christian. Talk to guys like that, or maybe it's maybe it's not exactly that, but maybe a lot of you have parents where it's like, "you know, honey, I'm glad you're having a good time in that club, but you better not let your grade slip.
- 17:37 You went to fall retreat. You had tests this week. What are you doing? Hey, I'm paying for you to be there to get the A's and to get a job. You don't go wasting your. Don't talk to me if it gets hard." I've talked to people that just can't talk to their parents. What about your siblings? You grow up just confiding in a sibling and loving them and having everything in common with them. And then you go and become a believer and all of a sudden that commonality just vanishes. And you love your siblings.
- 18:06 You love your brothers and your sister so much. You're dying to tell them what you've found. But every time you bring it up, they don't understand. And each time, with each repetition, it becomes more of a better subject until you get to the point where they just don't want to hear it! And so all of a sudden, the most important thing to you is the very thing that causes "ish" in that relationship. What about your significant others? Anybody ever become a Christian mid relationship? And then you go to your special someone and you say, I love Jesus now, and I want to be like Jesus and reflect Jesus.
- 18:39 I've discipled a lot of guys. And it's usually one or one of two universal responses they're laughed at. Or they get poison spat in their eyes because that person knows how human you are. My wife knows how human I am. When you spend that much time with someone and so when you say, I want to represent Jesus. It's like, wow. Where do you get off? Let's go broader. What about your Friends?
- 19:07 You become a Christian, all of a sudden, do you see how this is all adversity? How this is all opposition to your faith to the gospel? What about your friends? Sometimes you get, a wholesale "I don't want to talk to you anymore". It happens. It hurts and it's hard because everything they're talking about here, C28. That's real. And that's important. We need relationships. And we need friends. And sometimes your friends don't want to hear it. Or maybe they just maybe that's just part of your life. They don't

want to be part of.

- 19:38 Or maybe they don't understand. How about strangers? Anybody who's gone sharing, faith sharing. Yeah. That's great. You're walking through the HUB and you walk up to Joe schmo. You've never seen him before, and you might never see him again. But you have to truthfully convince him that you love him too much to walk past him. Because he has to know who Jesus Christ is and what his sacrifice meant.
- 20:07 And you got this kid who's like, "I was doing my math homework. Facing the wall. So you wouldn't talk to me." I'm not knocking sharing. I love the times that I got to go sharing because the fact is and we're going to talk about this in verse 28. Every single person you pass. The person on your left and on your right right now on the Saudi. The people you pass coming in to the HUB. The lady that serves you your lunch. The guy that delivers the mail, your mom, your dad, your buddy back home.
- 20:39 Everybody stretches into eternity. Everybody. And therefore everybody needs to know about Jesus Christ and what He's done. Not in a judgmental, horrible way, that holier than thou crap. But in sincere love. How do you walk past someone and not tell them what you found? I'm serious. Now let's blow the doors open on this. And do not in any way be terrified by your adversaries. It's not just emotional pain. Like we're talking about that you might get from your family or your significant other.
- 21:09 It's not just social pain that you might get from friends or strangers. Paul was talking about physical pain. And some of you are thinking, wow, that's back you then know...Christian persecutions feed him to lions, whatever. That doesn't apply. How about four months ago? Whenever three guys in Turkey were killed. Do you know the people are martyred all the time in 2007? Four months ago, three Turkish guys are tied to the chairs in the office where they work and a knife is pressed into their body. Time and time again. Deny the name. Deny the name. Deny the name. And right before they died, throat slit. Next guy. Deny the name. Deny the name. And they didn't break. What in the world is that about? How could someone actually value their relationship with Jesus Christ and the fact that people need to know about him, more than that experience?
- 22:03 And the thing is, while it seems incredulous on the front end, I dare you to read history - it's scattered with people who have counted the relationship with Jesus and the fact that people knew about his love, more precious, not just in their social connections or their families acceptance, but their skin. Read Fox's Book of Martyrs or the 12th chapter of Hebrews in the Bible, or the biography of Jim Elliot, or the account of the 7 brothers, people that like from pools of their own blood and body parts are forgiving the people that are cutting them up because they want them to come to the lord and know him.
- 22:36 Because they know that these people are going to stretch into eternity, and they have to know about Jesus Christ. It is the only thing that matters. Paul touches on it right here. Do not, in any way, be terrified of your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of Salvation and that from God. Adversaries of the gospel are people that are opposing Jesus instead of following him, and therefore they're marked for perdition, but they need to know Jesus. It's not about are you in or are you out?
- 23:05 There are people, your adversaries, which are marked for perdition. Those are people that need to know Jesus, and then there are people that do know Jesus. But to you of Salvation." Do not, in any way, be terrified of your adversaries, which is to you, a proof of Salvation." People are looking for for proofs all the time that Christianity is the way. I went through this! We'rey like, well, the Christians know they're right. No, they're right. And Hindus know their rights. So how do we know who's right?
- 23:37 Because the Bible is littered with litmus tests. For if your faith is true in saving, and here's one of them. If you can look adversity, if you can look emotional or social or physical pain in the eye and smile at it and not be afraid - it's a proof that you've been set aside and marked as a child of God. It's a proof that Jesus is real. And that he's marked you. Do you know what a blessing that is? Do you understand?
- 24:06 You might be wondering why I'm talking so much of pain too. A little more in verse 29 and we're going to get to it. We're going to get to the point. Verse 29 for to you, it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in him, but to suffer for his sake. We're talking about the hardship that we might endure being Christians. And we're talking about the hardship other people have endured being Christians, and now we hear things really bright.
- 24:31 And now we hear that it has been granted on behalf of Christ that we suffer for his sake. And some of you are saying, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. God's a loving God? God cares about me, and yet He might grant it to me to suffer. What's that about? What's all this? Some of you are thinking, thanks for talking about this, Greg. I brought my friend that's not a believer. And now you're making it seem like you know we're going to have the second martyrdom under the Roman Empire.
- 25:01 But that's not what we're talking about. But I am pointing out that it is in fact whatever it is in your life. I've talked to dear friends tonight that we're going through things I didn't know they were going through. Whatever it is in your life that opposes your faith or wears you down or makes you wonder if God is real or creates that social pressure where it's like, oh, maybe I don't want to be a Christian. All of that! Why would God grant suffering these three Turkish martyrs? Why would God grant suffering to His children? That's a whole before I get too deep into it - that's a whole other talk.
- 25:32 But the two that leaped immediately to mind when I read this passage for the first time was for His glory and for our good. You see, when you suffer for something, it proves that it's precious to you. It proves that it matters. That's why when you love someone, you say, "I love you so much, I could die for you." That makes a lot of sense. Except the thing is, if you're willing to suffer for something, it proves that it's precious to you, and that brings glory to God. When people are willing to face adversity without fear.
- 26:01 The second, for our good. Because when life is going well, a lot of times we don't rely on the Lord. Let's be honest. But then but when things go bad, whenever we're devastated, a lot of people, you know, in the face of tragedy, people turn to religion. Well, of

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course, I mean, that's why the churches were packed after 911. That's why prison ministries are so successful. Because when all of a sudden when your life isn't that sweet anymore, it's not that hard to lay it down. And you see, God realizes the things that make us happy but prove distractions.

- 26:33 God realizes that in the end, that's not gonna save anybody. All men stretch into eternity, and there's one Jesus Christ. "I am the way the truth and the life none come to the Father except for me." You don't get to the Father through being happy. You don't get to the father by living in a warm climate and owning a boat. You get to the Father through Jesus Christ. And so if there's no other way to distract you, then God might grant suffering to his children for your own goods, so you just turn to Him. So He could begin that relationship with you, which is the thing that will carry you into eternity.
- 27:04 I don't want to get too deep into that because like I said, you could really go a long time on that. But so far, let's look at what we've read. "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ." Only let everything you think say do and believe, be clearly indicative of the fact that you've been saved by the gospel of Christ. So that whether I come to see you or I'm absent, I may hear of your affairs. So the whether your teachers are all in your business or not.
- 27:30 They'll hear of your affairs that you stand fast. Let the colors be nailed to the mast. "That you stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together, taking any and all steps necessary to take that next leap of faith. Striving together for the faith of the gospel. And do not in any way be terrified of your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of Salvation and that from God." You're gonna be beset.
- 28:00 You walk up to somebody you don't know and you share the gospel with them. I promise you that some of them go home and they're like, someone tried to convert me today. Some Jesus freak. I don't know what the heck was going on. And the fear of that scares some people out of sharing their faith. But if you can face that fear and not succumb to it, do not in any way be terrified of your adversities, which is proof them to of tradition, but to you of Salvation. You're taking a huge step in your faith.
- 28:30 For to you, it has been granted on behalf of Christ... to suffer for his sake, for various reasons. But all of that, everything I've said so far is an answer to Paul's second question. Paul's first question, do you know Jesus Christ? Well, yes, I do. What are you going to do about it? Because your answer should be, I want to get to the point where to live is Christ and to die is gain. I want to stand fast and strive. I want to nail the colors to the mast.
- 29:00 But all of that is predicated upon an answer to the first question. Do you know Jesus Christ? You see, if I had to pick a title for my talk or something that it was about, it's kind of nebulous. You have to admit, right? But if it's about one thing, it's the nature of true saving faith. Always striving, always standing fast. Always taking that next step. But you see it all begins somewhere, and that's the miracle of this passage.
- 29:29 And that's why I picked it. 29A "For you to you, it has been granted on behalf of Christ to believe in Him." For to you, it has been gifted that has been given to you on behalf of Christ - for Christ's sake. For you, it has been given on behalf of Christ to believe in him. Do you know what you've been given? The opportunity to believe. Do you know what you've been gifted the opportunity to hear and understand and know?
- 29:57 We talk about the gospel all the time at Cru, spent four years here, and it's - whoo! I mean, you hear the gospel a lot. And that's great. We need that. But the problem is sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Do you know what you have been gifted to believe? Someone's going to say, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that you who believe might not perish, but have eternal life" amen. And everybody's like, what does that mean?
- 30:28 It's bible-eze. And so someone else is going to be like, "Jesus loves you so much. He died for your sins", which is also true, but it's christian-eze. And what does that mean? And so, and so some people, the good people accrue here, take the time to explain to you that God loves you personally. Believe me, God is real. Believe me, please. Or if you don't know me, find someone you do know and trust and ask them. God is real. And He really does love you and wants to know you personally.
- 30:57 But you and me and everybody else that has ever lived since has sinned. And that creates a gap between us and God. Book of Romans "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And the wages and his death", not just in this life, but the next. And so there's this chasm between us and God, and He sends his son. That's where God still loves the world He gave His only begotten son. That's where that fits puzzle piece. Jesus came and died a sinner's death so that you wouldn't have to.
- 31:26 If you had asked him to be the Lord of your heart. And so, you know, some of you are like, okay, that's starting to the wheels are chugging a little bit, but we hear that at Cru a lot and I just don't know. It still sounds like something my parents just said growing up like, whatever. Which is why I want to read - I brought this along. I shared this the last time I spoke. And the only reason I'm redoing it is because it is still the best account of what actually happened.
- 31:53 2007 years ago, and what actually took place in the spiritual world. This is what you've been gifted to know. This is the reason why you would nail the colors to the mast. This is the reason that you would stand fast and strive. Whether your teachers are there or not, you would face adversity, that you would face suffering with a smile. This is the reason. I don't want to read this to you. If you've heard the gospel 600,000 times, just open your ears and listen. This is worth hearing.
- 32:22 "The face that Moses had begged to see was forbidden to see, was slapped bloody. The thorns that guided sent a curse the earth's rebellion now twisted on his brow. On your back with you. One of the soldiers raises a mallet to sink in the spike. But the soldier's heart must continue pumping as he readies the prisoner's wrists. Someone must sustain the soldier's life minute by minute for no man has this power on his own. Who supplies breath to his lungs? Who gives energy to his cells?
- 32:51 Who holds all his molecules together? It says in Colossians, only by the Son do all things hold together. Jesus Christ, the victim,

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wills that the soldier live on. He grants the warriors continued existence as the man swings. As the man swings, the son recalls how He and the Father first designed the medial nerve in the human forearm. The sensations it would be capable of. The design proves flawless. The nerve performs exquisitely. Up you go! They lift up the cross.

- 33:21 God is on display and can scarcely breathe. But these pains are a mere warmup to his other and growing dread. He begins to feel a foreign sensation. Somewhere during this day and on earthly foul odor began to walk, not around his nose, but his heart. He feels dirty. Human wickedness starts to crawl upon his spotless being. The living excrement from our souls. The apple of the Father's eye turns brown with rot. His Father! He must face his Father like this!
- 33:51 From Heaven, the Father now rouses himself like a lion disturbed, shakes His mane, and roars against the shriveling remnant of a man hanging on the cross. Never has the Son seen his Father look at him so. Never felt even the least of His hot breath. But the roar shakes the unseen world and darkens the visible sky. The Son does not know these eyes. "Son of man, why have you behaved so? You have cheated, lusted, stolen, gossiped, murdered, envied, hated and lied. You have cursed, robbed, overspent, overeaten, fornicating, disobeyed, embezzled and blasphemed.
- 34:23 Oh, the duties you've shirked. The children you've abandoned, who has ever so ignored the poor? So played the coward? So belittled my name? Have you ever held your razor tongue? What a self righteous pitiful drunk! You that molest young boys, pedal killer drugs, travel in clicks and mock your parents. Who gave you the boldness to rig elections forment revolutions, torture animals and worship demons? Does the list never end? Splitting families, raping virgins, acting smugly, playing the pimp, buying politicians, practicing exhortation, filming pornography, accepting bribes.
- 34:55 You have burned down buildings. You have perfected terrorist tactics. You have founded false religions. You have traded in slaves, relishing each morsel and bragging about it. I hate, I loathe these things in you. Disgust for everything about you consumes me. Can you not feel my wrath?"
- 35:18 And of course, the son is innocent. He is blamelessness itself and the Father knows it. But the divine pair have an agreement. And the unthinkable must now take place. Jesus will be treated as if personally responsible for every sin ever committed. The Father watches as His heart's treasure, the mirror image of himself, sinks drowning in raw liquid sin.
- 35:55 The stored rage against humankind from every century explodes in a single direction. "Father! Father, why have you forsaken me?" But heaven stops its ears. The Son stares up at the One who can not, who will not reach down a reply. The Trinity planned it, the Son endured it. The Spirit enabled him. The Father rejected the Son whom He loved. Jesus, the God man from Nazareth, perished.
- 36:25 The Father accepted His sacrifice for the sin of many and was satisfied. The rescue mission was complete." (read from When God Weeps by Joni Earekson Tada)
- 36:30 Y'all, I'm not kidding around. God is real. Jesus Christ is real. And He does love you enough that He did die and go to hell for you. Period. As He hung on the cross and screamed, " Father, why have you forsaken me?" God screamed at humanity, "Look at what I will do so that you never have to be alone again. In three days time, my son will rise and ascend into heaven and be seated my right hand. Death will be conquered." And if you will just open yourself to his love. Every time you hear a Christian say, let Jesus be the lord of your heart, it means open yourself to His love. Let yourself be loved and forgiven.
- 37:23 If you'll do that, then you'll stretch into eternity with me. Why am I saying stand fast, strive, face adversity, deal with suffering? Because it's the only correct response. Your nailing your colors to the mast is the only correct response to God nailing his colors to the mast. Nailing his son to a plank of wood. And condemning him with your sin.
- 37:54 So that you wouldn't have to be alone. Your faith is real, and I invite you to pick it up and own it. The first night that that clicked with me was three and a half years ago. It was the night I became a Christian at 2:30 in the morning alone in my dorm room here at Penn State. And I have never looked back. Has it been all fun and games? No, no. Absolutely not. There's been a lot of fun and games.
- 38:24 I found love and acceptance and friends and purpose and meaning and beauty and my wife and my best friends. I found a lot of things, but not before I was willing to let it all go. And there have been times, seasons, that are blacker than I would ever talk to you through a microphone about. But the truth is the truth. I don't believe Christianity because it makes my life better, even though it does. I believe it because it's true. And the truth always brings me through.
- 38:53 And it has not changed. And it is The Rock to which I cling. If you're not a Christian, I beg you to find me when this meeting is done. If you are a Christian, then I want you to listen because I have to say that your conduct needs to be worthy of the gospel of Christ. :So the whether I come to see you are an absent. I may hear of your affairs and that you stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and you need to not in any way be terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of partition, but to you of Salvation. And that from God. For not only has been granted on behalf of Christ that you believe in him, but that you get to suffer for His sake." You get to nail the colors to the mast.
- 39:45 Y'all pray with me?
- 39:52 Father, I love you. There are so many people in this room that love you. And we want to be about our relationship with you. We want, like Paul, to learn to live in a place where life is you and to die is gain. Father, there's a lot of believers in this room that need to take the next step. Please give them the courage.
- 40:15 There's a lot of unbelievers that I just invite to see. Tonight was a tough talk because it was directed kind of at the people that are

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already Christians, but there's a lot of people that just need to hear about your love. You're unbelievable love. Help them to find a Christian tonight and talk to them about it. Father, I love you, and I thank you for the Bible, the book of Philippians, and the truth in it. Your truth is marching on helpless to commit to that. Help us to nail the colors to the mast. Amen.

40:46 This podcast has been a production of Penn State crew, crews and community where the gospel captures hearts, transforms lives and launches men and women into a lifelong adventure with Jesus Christ. To find out more information, visit pennstatecru.org