OPEN

You don’t look in the mirror, but you know that you need to be fixed. You know that something’s broken. You know that you’re not making it. You’re not being everything you should be and maybe you’re weary. And I understand. But I’ve got good news for you. That can be fixed. You can become the woman, the man that God designed you to be. He has it all in His plan, and we’re going to see that plan today.

PART ONE

I’ve got to tell you that I am so excited about the potential of this study that we’re doing. I’m excited because I feel like what God is going to keep saying to you, “Now guard My glory. Guard My glory.” And you’re not gonna say, “How do I do it?” You’re gonna understand how you guard His glory, how you give others a correct opinion, an estimate of who God is so that as they see you moving through life in various, various situations of life. What they do is they see how God would have us behave. You say, “That
really is what I want. I really want to be everything that I should be.” And I understand that. I understand that. And you know what? I love your heart. I love your heart, and God loves it too. I want us to open our Bibles to an awesome, awesome verse, and it’s in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, and it’s verse 13. And it says, **“But we should always give thanks to God for you....”** Now he’s writing to people that were not absolutely perfect. He’s writing to people that have some situations in their life and in the church that really need to be changed. But he looks at them, and this is what he says. He says, **“...we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord....”** That’s why I call you “Beloved” because you are beloved of the Lord, and I want you to know that. I want you to understand that. And so this is what he says, **“...because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation....”** (2 Thessalonians 2:13) God picked you out. God chose you from the very beginning. When He created the heavens and the earth, and you’re gonna see it in a little bit, He chose you from the beginning for salvation, salvation from sin, salvation from the penalty of sin, but also salvation from your flesh. Salvation that is going to take you and make you more and more into His image. Watch, these are marvelous, marvelous verses. As a matter of fact, I would suggest that you write them down and put them on the refrigerator OK? Or you put them on the bathroom mirror so that you see them. Now verse 13, **“But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation....”** (2 Thessalonians 2:13) What does He want to do? He wants to take you, set you apart, consecrate you, work in you so that you can glorify Him. That’s what He wants to do. This is the sanctification process. This is why we want you to study along with us. This is why we want you to download our free study guide and get your nose in the book and see it on the side of the page. You go to “preceptsforlife.com”,
“preceptsforlife” spell it like one word, “.com.” And there you can download your study guide. And while you’re there we would love to hear from you. I would love to hear from you. They print out the comments. I pile up in bed. My husband and I have two twin beds that are squeezed together like a king size bed. And I can make my bed sit up, cause I love to read in bed. And so I prop my head up, jack my knees up, and I’ve got a nice little nest. And I have my Bible, or my book, or whatever I’m doing and my notes from you. And I read them. And you know what? It inspires me and it makes me feel like you and I are connecting. And it makes me want to write back. But I can’t do it to all of you. But I can communicate with you this way. All right, so “…God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through the sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.” (2 Thessalonians 2:13) OK, so how’s He going to sanctify you? He’s going to sanctify you by the work of the Holy Spirit, and by you having faith in the truth. That’s why we want you to discover truth for yourself. That’s why we want you to study. This is why normally on “Precepts for Life” I go through a book of the Bible in case you just found me. And we study that book chapter by chapter, and verse by verse so that you know the whole counsel of God. But this is a special thing where I just was longing to teach you about guarding His glory. So now listen to what he says. “It was for this…,” verse 14. You’ve got to have that verse. “It was for this He called you through our gospel…,” through the good news, “…that you…,” and I love it. Here we go, “…[that you may gain the glory of the Lord] that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 2:14) In other words He’s saying, “I called you. I called you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in Jesus Christ, so that I might make you like Jesus, so that you might have His glory.” Now we saw in Genesis chapter 1 that this is the way God made us. He made us in His image. He made us so that if you saw Adam or if you saw Eve you would see God cause he was in the image of God. (See Genesis 1:26-27) Until sin entered into the world. And then
when they didn’t believe God, when they didn’t obey God they became sinners. “…By one man sin [came] into the world…..” (Romans 5:12, KJV) Romans 3:23, “…All have sinned and [they fall short]…,” now listen. Think this thing through. They “…fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) Here is the true and exact estimate of who God is. And all men, they come up, and some are better than others. Some are more God-like, more Christ-like than others. But no matter what, all “…fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) So what God wants to do is God wants to rescue these men, these women. And He wants to take them and so work in them through the Spirit and through faith in the truth that they reach the glory of Jesus Christ. So that you look at them and more and more and more, Precious One, you are looking like God. You’re looking like what God intended for you to be. Now in all of this I want to tell you that it is a process. It is a process, and you have to be patient with yourself. And you have to know that it is a process, and God has made the means to take you through the process. Now what is the process? How is God going to do this? How is God going to take you, who was meant to be in the image of God, in the glory of God? Who has fallen? Who has sinned? Who now has a battle with the flesh because the flesh is crying “Give me, give me, give me,” and you want to give it, give it, give it to the flesh? I mean I’ve got too much flesh right now because my flesh was saying, “Feed me, feed me, feed me.” And I did. And I knew I shouldn’t do it, but I did it see. So what happens when we do that? What’s the answer? What’s the solution? And so many times we try to solve it in our flesh when God has a way of solving it. It’s “…for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit [and] by faith in the [Lord Jesus Christ].” (2 Thessalonians 2:13) And let me read that good verse again. “It was for this He called you through our gospel….,” (2 Thessalonians 2:14) And this is what I want you to see. This is what I want you to underline. This is what I want you to mark. Remember we’re marking “glory”. “…That you…,” that you, you, you, you, you, you, you, not
somebody else, “…[that you] may gain the glory…,” the correct opinion, the correct estimate, “[of Jesus Christ, that you may gain the glory]…..” You want to mark it, “…of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 2:14) If I gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ then what I am doing is I am being changed from glory to glory to glory into the image of Jesus Christ. (See 2 Corinthians 3:18) That’s what 2 Corinthians says. Let’s look at it. Let’s go there. We’ve looked at it in the series, but maybe you weren’t there when we did this. And I want to tell you something. This is a series that you need to have. This is a series that you need to listen to. This is a series that you need to share with your friends. Second Corinthians chapter 3, verse 18, “But we all, with unveiled face…,” (2 Corinthians 3:18) and that unveiled face in the context means, we’ve come to know Jesus Christ. Salvation has happened. That’s what the “unveiled face” means. “…But we all, with unveiled face…,” it says, “…beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18) We are changed from glory to glory. And you want to mark that. But I want you to see how. “…Just as from the Lord….” (2 Corinthians 3:18) It’s the Lord that’s going to do it. And we’re going to see how in just a minute, and you don’t want to miss it. You want to be able to glorify God in your body, which is His. And you’re gonna learn how. I love you.

PART TWO
Welcome back, Beloved. We’re talking about gaining the glory of Jesus Christ so that we can guard that glory. It is possible. It is so possible for us to be what God wants us to be. And I don’t want us to miss that. So let’s look again at 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. And then I want to show you how we gain that glory. 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, and verse 13 it says, “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through
sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.” (2 Thessalonians 2:13) Now what I’m going to show you is absolute truth. And if you will believe it, if you will understand that what you’re about to see are His precepts for life, and you will embrace them, then you will gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So here is man. Man is meant to be an exact image of God. [Man sins, and that, he falls short of the glory of God.]

(PARAPHRASE, Romans 3:23) So what does God do? Go to John chapter 1, John chapter 1. Now the gospel of John was written after the other gospels. And it was written for the purpose of showing people that Jesus was the Christ, that He was the Messiah, that He was the Son of God so that believing on Him they might have eternal life. (See John 3:16) They might have life in His name. So when John begins his gospel what he does is he takes us all the way back to the beginning. He takes us back to the beginning of the creation of the heavens and the earth. And this is what he says in John chapter 1. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1) OK, if you can just imagine the chair next to me being filled with the Spirit of God. [No man has seen God] (PARAPHRASE, John 1:18) so it’s an empty chair. But “In the beginning was the Word….” So I’m the Word. “…And the Word was with God….” (John 1:1) So I’m sitting right next to an empty chair that has God in it, so to speak. All right, so “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God….” (John 1:1) I’m with God next to this empty chair. And it says, “…And the Word was God.” (John 1:1) Oh, the One in the chair, the empty chair is God. And the Word is God. They’re both God. This is why Jesus says, [“If you’ve seen Me you’ve seen the Father.”] (PARAPHRASE, John 14:9) We have the same attributes. We have the same characteristics. And so it says, “…And the Word was God. [And] He was in the beginning with God.” (John 1:1-2) Now from there what I want us to do is, I want us to go to John chapter 1, verse 14. We saw that the one sitting next to the empty chair is the Word that, “…the Word [is] with God, [that] the
Word [is] God. [and that] He was in the beginning with God.” (John 1:1-2) He’s always been. And, “All things came into being [by] Him….” (John 1:3) It says that in verse 3, “All things came into being [by] Him, and apart from His nothing came into being.” (John 1:3) And so He is the Creator. He was there when it says, “[And] God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image…’” (Genesis 1:26) It was God the Father. It was God the Son, the Word of God, and it was the Spirit of God. And so in John chapter 1, verse 14 God wants us to understand that the Word that was in the beginning, that was with God, that is God “…became flesh, and dwelt among us….” (John 1:14) So here just imagine now me as representing the Word, getting up, so to speak, leaving the side of the chair and taking upon myself flesh. “And the Word became flesh….” (John 1:14) And when the Word becomes flesh then what does the Word do? The Word comes and dwells among us. The Word leaves heaven, is confined to the womb of a woman, is born of that woman, becomes flesh. Why? We’ll see it next. All right, so He becomes flesh and because He becomes flesh then we behold His glory. “And the Word became flesh, and…we [beheld] His glory…,” a true estimate, a true opinion of Him. We beheld His glory “…as of the only begotten from the Father….” (John 1:14) In other words, this is the Son of God. As the only begotten from the Father, this is the only one that is born of God, a human being that is God in the flesh. “…The only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14) So what we have is we have Jesus coming to earth and becoming a man. Now why is He becoming a man? I want you to go to Hebrews chapter 2. In Hebrews chapter 2, now we looked in the last program at Psalm 8. And now he’s going to quote Psalm 8. He said, “…He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.” In other words, there is an age to come, a world to come. “But one has testified somewhere, saying, ‘WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON ONF MAN, THAT YOU ARE
CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? YOU HAVE MADE HIM [man]...,”” and we saw that in Psalm 8, “...FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR...[you] HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET...”” (Hebrews 2:5-8) We saw all that in Psalm 8.

“For in subjection all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not...see all things subjected to him [subjected to man].” (Hebrews 2:8), like they were to be in Genesis chapter 1, verse 26 and 17. “But we do see Him...” Him whom? Him, Jesus. “[We do see Him],” Now watch what it says. “...[We do see Him]...made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for every [man].”(Hebrews 2:9) Now listen to verse 14.

“Therefore, since the children...,” since you and I are “...flesh and blood....” It says, “...He [Jesus] likewise also partook of the same....” (Hebrews 2:14) He leaves the Father in heaven, 1:14 of John, and the Word becomes flesh, flesh and blood. Why? So that “...He [might] through death...render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” (Hebrews 2:14) So Jesus came, we’re gonna see it in the next program. I’m so excited I can’t wait! We’re going to see that it is Jesus that enables us to glorify Him and to be changed into the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. He does it by becoming flesh. He does it by dying. He does it by taking over the power of the evil one and setting you free. I can’t wait to teach you in the next program.