

# FIRST

A GATEWAY CONFERENCE

## **“Holy Fire” Scripture References**

*New American Standard Version*

### **John 8:36**

“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

### **John 8:32**

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

### **John 16:13**

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

### **2 Corinthians 9:8**

And God is able to make all grace abound to you

### **Matthew 6:10**

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

### **Deuteronomy 4:24**

For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

### **Deuteronomy 5:29**

“Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!”

### **Deuteronomy 8:19**

“It shall come about if you ever forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish.”

### **Philippians 4:7**

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **1 Corinthians 10:14**

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

**1 Kings 18:15**

Elijah said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today."

**1 Kings 18:16**

So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

**1 Kings 18:17**

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is this you, you troubler of Israel?"

**1 Kings 18:18**

He said, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and you have followed the Baals.

**1 Kings 18:19**

Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

**1 Kings 18:21**

Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word.

**1 Kings 18:22**

Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.

**1 Kings 18:23**

Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it.

**1 Kings 18:24**

Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people said, "That is a good idea."

**1 Kings 18:30**

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord which had been torn down.

**1 Kings 18:31**

Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

**1 Kings 18:32**

So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed.

**1 Kings 18:33**

Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood.

**1 Kings 18:34**

And he said, "Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time.

**1 Kings 18:35**

The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water.

**1 Kings 18:36**

At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word.

**1 Kings 18:37**

Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again."

**1 Kings 18:38**

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

**1 Kings 18:39**

When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God."

**Ephesians 2:8**

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

**Ephesians 2:9**

not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Romans 1:18**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness

**Romans 1:21**

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

**Romans 1:22**

Professing to be wise, they became fools,

**Romans 1:24**

Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

**Romans 1:25**

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

**Romans 1:26**

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

**Romans 1:27**

and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

**Romans 1:28**

And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

**Romans 1:29**

being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,

**Romans 1:30**

slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

**Romans 1:31**

without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

**Romans 1:32**

and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

**Matthew 10:29**

Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

**2 Timothy 2:23**

But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.

**2 Timothy 2:24**

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,

**2 Timothy 2:25**

with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

**2 Timothy 2:26**

and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

**Psalms 51:17**

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

**1 Peter 2:4**

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,

**1 Peter 2:5**

you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**Romans 12:1**

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

**Romans 12:2**

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Matthew 10:41**

He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

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**Complete Transcript of**  
**“Holy Fire”**  
**by James Robison**

Well, let me do what Robert does. Would you pick up your Bible and mark First Kings 18? If you're writing these down, what we're actually going to try to do is have a transcript available of the message because I will likely cover quite a bit of ground. But also, I want you to open your Bible, put a mark in Romans chapter one. I'm preaching on *Holy Fire*; the fire of God.

A week ago, Betty and I were at a retreat setting where you have to build an actual fire in the fireplace. You don't have a gas log to light it. You have to use something like this, a little fire starter, put some newspaper under it and get it to light and catch the wood and you've got to stack the wood right so it will draft. It is kind of like building a charcoal fire. You've got to put the pile in kind of a pyramid stack; all the charcoal has to be touching. And then you can light it with a little lighter fluid, but it will not light unless all the briquettes are touching, and a wood fire will not light unless it drafts. You normally can't build a wood fire with less than three logs. It has got to draft. Betty had built one, but she stacked all the wood in the back and it wouldn't burn. It was like a friend of mine who tried to start some charcoal to cook steaks. He had the charcoal scattered everywhere. He kept trying to get it to light; but it wouldn't light. So he was out there dousing the lighter fluid all over it and trying to get it to light and it would get just a little ember and not enough heat to melt a marshmallow—that was about it.

I think that's the way it is with a lot of church folks. We're so scattered, and so pulled apart, and so tribal, and so traditional that we don't do what God said do and come together in supernatural unity so the holy fire of God can consume the sacrifices that we offer Him together as a family of faith loving Him and loving one another. You

watch people squirting the Holy Spirit all over everybody and the church won't catch on fire. We don't become the city set on a hill. We allow the light to be covered and hidden, and we don't see the sacrifice consumed.

Now one of the things I think is important for you to understand is that we're living in a day of intense conflict. Here's what's happening. The enemy is revealing his nature vividly—visibly—the vileness of it—the deadliness—the destructive force and power. It's God's will to reveal His nature clearly in the last days so that we can actually see the Jesus He's inviting us to receive as Lord and Savior and the sacrifice essential for our sins; the One who fulfills the law and lives in us. You and I are recipients of the grace of God and the life abundant and eternal that comes through Christ.

Now the church is supposed to reveal that. The enemy is doing a very good job of revealing his nature. You don't have any problem seeing him. People are still struggling to see Jesus. They see church folks, they see religious folks but how often do they see the resurrected Christ living in those who profess to know Him?

What we need to understand is there is the greatest conflict of the ages. It is a kingdom conflict: Light and darkness, good and evil, righteousness and wrong, God and Satan. It's the great "I will" opposing the great "I AM."

Robert has been preaching the last several weeks about the freedom we can have in Christ. Jesus came to set the captives free, to set at liberty those that are held captive in prison. Jesus said, "When the Son makes you free, you're free indeed." "You shall know the truth and truth will make you free." "And I send the spirit of truth to live in you to guide you in all truth so that you can live abounding in grace" and the knowledge of God and be overcomers, more than conquerors, ambassadors for Christ in this lifetime seeing His kingdom come, His will be done as it is in heaven right here, right now through his people. That's the will of God. [Cheers & Applause]

And the great "I will." The Father of all lies, Lucifer, Beelzebub is assaulting the freedom that God offers in Christ, and he assaults it by assaulting the truth that sets us free, and he assaults it with lies, the conflict of worldviews.

God is God. There are standards. There is righteousness. There is right and wrong. There's night and day. We have a reliable foundation. God wants in place secure walls of protection not cages to keep people trapped, to keep them from wandering. Never the case! You don't build a fence to keep your kids in to keep them from having fun. You want to keep them out of the street but you say, "Here's the boundary, here's the hedge. It's truth; don't go there, you'll get hurt." But you don't put them in a cage to protect them. That's what religious people do. They hem you up. They cage you up and make a Pharisee out of you—mean as a snake. [Laughter]

Just watch when you leave this parking lot today if somebody gets in your way. [Laughter] Have any of you Spirit-filled Christians ever noticed how your fast-food line never moves? That stupid red light is always red when you get there—and it's been red longer than it's ever been before. [Laughter] Have you ever noticed when you're driving only idiots pass you? And you only pass morons? [Laughter] Just how full of the freedom and fullness of God are we?

Well, I want you to understand something. The enemy of freedom and life and truth has focused his fury on freedom lovers and truth believers and the church of the living God and we've given him too much ground to grow his foul crop. He said, "There is no law."

Thirty-five years ago I was kicked off television for reading Romans chapter one. I was kicked off the largest television station in the south, WFAA in Dallas. All of my programming was put under the view of one person nationwide. It cost me \$50,000 a week just to have the program considered several weeks before it would air because one person could silence me forever. The Fairness Doctrine shut me off. I said, "I will not stand for it. All I did is preach the Word of God. I have freedom of speech, the right to preach, and I will preach!" And the church of the living God joined me in 1979 and we defeated the Fairness Doctrine. I went back on the air and I've never been put off.

I want to tell you, preachers are being put off today. Freedom is being put down. It is being trampled on. You're being forced to buy things you don't want, forced to buy things that you don't even believe in, and you're being forced to take care of people who have no desire to work, who will take your money and spend it on drugs and habits and more food that makes them fatter while they're saying their hungry. We're losing freedom.

I want you to write this down: JamesRobison.net. You see that up there? See the picture? That's me holding my glasses; a weekly commentary. You see that bumper sticker? That was a bumper sticker, red, white, and blue. It was on over 100,000, if not 200,000 cars in Dallas/Fort Worth. Can you get a close-up of that young guy there? That was a full page ad in virtually every newspaper in America. Well, I'm standing there and saying, "I've got the right to preach." God's people came together. We won!

We watched freedom protected from the Soviet threat. We saw the Cold War end and I was there when they tore the Berlin wall down; the first person to ever speak in a public open arena in East Berlin as the wall was pick-axed down.

Freedom! We're losing it. By the way, when you saw that picture, put it back up there a moment. Put that young guy up there. My wife saw that the other day and said, "You were handsome!" [Laughter] Thank you, honey! Fifty-one years may be touch-and-go. [Laughter] You know how I know what you're thinking? "Look at that! He's as handsome as Pastor Robert!" [Laughter]

In First Kings 18 the prophets and preachers have been hiding in the caves because they are afraid of Ahab and Jezebel. That wicked Queen Jezebel—that wicked king Ahab! Do you know that they demanded the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth, which was a female deity? And they demanded that you worship and sacrifice and they were as anti-God as perhaps a group of leaders have ever been in history.

God said in Deuteronomy 4:24, "Your God is a consuming fire." In the very next chapter He said, "I want you to enter into the land and know that you have a heart in you that will always seek to obey the commands of God so that it will be well with you in the land, and all of your family, and you will be blessed with freedom and fruitfulness and real life. But if you go after idols, and if you worship any other God, you will lose the blessings, you will lose the benefit..." The blessing Robert preaches about is not monetary, it is far beyond it. The blessing Robert preaches is so great that if you abound or you're abased, you still have peace that passes understanding, just like Paul. You may have possessions, but you will never allow your possessions to have you.

And I want to say something to all the young people sitting here. You have a real tendency to think you've got it made because you were born on third base and you think somebody hit a triple. You better develop a work ethic just like the birds that God said consider. They don't worry but they get up early and they go to work. They don't wait for Pharaoh or a federal government or any all-provident world entity to say, "We're going to take care of you." We'll dig it out of the dirt. [Applause] The greater the pressure, the deeper our roots are to go into the

ground—rooted and grounded in love the more fruitful we become as the pressure comes on, and the harder and more diligently we work.

The worldviews today are telling you to depend on some form of Pharaoh and leave your dependence upon God and your worship of God. If you listened to Robert when he was preaching, he pointed out what Paul told the Corinthians, “Flee idolatry, run from idolatry; run from it because if you have an idol you’re having fellowship with demons. You’re a sharer with demons. You’re a sharer with the liars. You’ll believe the lie and you’ll be defeated and lose the freedom Jesus came to give if you receive the truth and walk in it and abide in it.

This is exactly what was happening when the preachers were hiding in the caves. The prophets were afraid. Elijah was afraid too but God gave him the commission to go and stand before the nation and show them who is God. And he was going to show them that our God is a consuming fire. He will answer with fire and consume the sacrifices. He told the idol worshippers to gather and this is what happened.

Verse 16: So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. And it came about when Ahab saw Elijah that Ahab the king said, “Is this you, you troubler of Israel? You’re a troublemaker!”

No, the idol worshippers were the troublemakers. But the prophets were seldom invited back for their second meeting. Most of them never got invited for the first meeting. They just came with a message from God and they laid it on the line. Elijah wasn’t troubling Israel, idolatry was, the wicked leadership was. And if you’ll notice in verse 19, there were 850 prophets of the devil of deception and one prophet of God—850 to one!

Robert, I honestly wonder if the men who are willing to stand up for truth, who are willing to be ambassadors of truth... By the way, I think you’ve got one coming on Tuesday night, Governor Huckabee. I believe Governor Huckabee is a great statesman for truth in America. Would you agree with that—that we’ve got a man speaking the truth week after week, even in a national media?

But I really believe even in the pulpits, the truth tellers, those who understand freedom and the necessity of proclaiming truth without wavering and fearlessly and in power and love may be outnumbered 850 to one. I really do think that’s why we’ve got so many marshmallow Christians, such soft, soggy, spineless, gutless wonders... I wonder if there are any of you here? [Laughter] You say, “You talking to me?” Yes!

I remember preaching at First Baptist Church years ago. I said, “Dr. Criswell, get off the platform.” He always was there when I preached. “Go sit out here. I need to preach to you too, doc. You need it.” He said, “I do, boy! I do! I do!” I said, “Dr. Criswell, do you ever get so sick of these deacons that sit out there like they swatted a curtain rod and they don’t ever do anything? Do you ever want to grab them by the lapel and shake them and it’s like pow!—and put them to sleep?” He said, “I do, boy! I do! I sure do!” And he preached a great sermon, “God Do It Again—God, Do It Again!” And he preached and all the time the fire of God fell.

Well, look what Elijah said in verse 21: “How long will you hesitate between two opinions?”—Two worldviews? “If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if (your idols,) Baal is god (the God of the world) follow him.” But the people didn’t answer a word.

So he said, “All right. Let’s build an altar. Let’s take two oxen. You offer the oxen on the altar, you call on your god and the God that answers by fire, he is God.” And they did it. And they screamed. And they begged. And they cried. And Elijah said, “Well, maybe he’s asleep. Maybe he’s on vacation. Maybe he’s relieving himself in the restroom. Why doesn’t your god answer?” Well, of course, he didn’t.

Then Elijah said all right and he piled the severed, cut up oxen on the altar. Then he said, “Bring water. Douse it with water. Bring more water. Pour more on the altar. Pour more on the sacrifice.” They poured until it filled up the trenches all around the altar. Then he said, “If you be God, you answer.” And God—pow!—Fire consumed the sacrifice of the altar. Pow! Everything was gone! The people’s god answered not a word—but the Lord He is God.

My dear friend, that’s precisely what needs to happen today. In a moment I’m going to show you what the sacrifices of God are. It is not a lamb or a bull or an ox or a sheep. We’ve got the Lamb of God who was slain as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. We’re not saved by the blood of animal sacrifice. We’re redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb. We’re not saved by works of righteousness, which we have done, but by His grace He has saved us.

Let’s get this thing straight. When you’re saved, you’re born from above. You become a new creation in Christ. You become a child of the living God. You’re not just a church person. You’re not just a religious traditionalist. You’re not a member of some lodge or some sacred club. You’re a member of the body of Christ, the blood-bought, born-again, baptized body of believers! You’re a part of the church of the living God! You’re a royal priesthood! You’re a holy people!

We’re going to offer sacrifices and ask the fire to consume it. I want you to look at what they were halting between. Go to Romans one. Get over there real quick.

This is the slowest I’ve ever talked when I had to preach a fast sermon. [Laughter] I may take a nap. Pardon me just a minute; I need a rest. A little four-year-old boy fell asleep on the front row one night in my crusade. I said, “Lady, wake that little boy up!” She said, “You wake him up. You put him to sleep.” [Laughter]

Now I’m going to paraphrase but I really hope you’ll camp in this a while because this ought to be front page in every newspaper in America.

By the way, you remember that web site I showed you a while ago? Do you remember what it was? James Robison—I don’t have middle “N”; we were too poor to have a middle “N.” It is JamesRobison.net. I want you to read it when you get home. It’s part one of the message I preached in that coliseum filled to overflowing with people. It started a movement that was felt around the world. It really was. That’s not an exaggeration. I want you to read it. It’s part one. Next week is part two. Next week I talk about the assault on freedom and what we do about it. You don’t want to miss it. You’ll want to forward it to everybody in the country.

But it’s taken from this passage (Romans 1) starting at verse 18. He said, “My wrath and my judgment is already revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness.” In other words, if you take idols, you don’t have to wait for some fiery judgment, it’s already here. Let me explain what it looks like. He said, “When you begin to worship what I created, rather than the one who created it, then you’re given over to skewed, twisted, foul, demented thinking. And you’re going to profess yourselves to be wise but your decision is going to prove you’re fools.”

The decisions that we’ve made with good intentions over the years, after they play out and we don’t revamp them, we prove to be fools. Social Security should have been revamped a long time ago. Good idea to help people. But we’ve got everything all twisted up and we can’t fix it. Right now we’ve got health care that they had to pass a law that none of them have read so they can pass a law so we can find out what’s in it. Well, we’re finding out and most people are not real happy about it.

We've got to remember we're our brother's keeper. I promise you, people that are really submitted and committed to this church in Christ, they're not going to starve; are they Robert? I love what you do for single parents around Christmas. It brings tears to my eyes because we do that all over the world. We help the overlooked because God never overlooked them. The sparrow falls to the earth and He sees it. He didn't say the peacock or the cardinal or the bluebird, He said the least noticeable. I notice—I notice—and I notice! Because I've got "the Noticer" living in me. God notices. He loves every one of them. He loves everybody in this community, everybody in the world and He wants to love them through his people, not through Pharaoh! [Applause] You better get your thinking straight. You've got a skewed worldview. You look to the wrong source! And the more you look to a wrong source the more deceived you'll get.

And what did He say happens? He said, "You're going to be so deceived that you're going to be controlled by your appetites, your natural appetites gone amuck." By the way, we not only have unnatural appetites where men love men and women love women, we've got natural appetites out of control, and we eat too much!

I loved Rick Warren this week on television, "But I was killing myself. I asked my church to join me. I thought 200 would." He said, "12,000 did! We're going to do the Daniel plan. And I lost 65 pounds and then my son died. I gained 30 back. But I'm on my way to losing it again. But I got my church to join with me and we're going to do it together."

That's the way Alcoholics Anonymous works; that's the way the greatest counseling programs work—we get together! You got a Bible, I'm in it with you. We say to the homosexual what a Baptist layman said to Dennis Jernigan, "I know what you are. I know what you are and I'm not going to leave you or leave your side until we walk through this and you win." And he never left him and Dennis is married and has nine children and he's free! [Applause]

Second Timothy 2:23-26 says: "Refuse foolish and ignorant speculations knowing they produce quarrels. The Lord's bondservant must not be quarrelsome but kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth that sets them free—even from homosexuality, an eating addiction—that they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil having been held captive by him to do his will.—Saints.

Listen, you ought to look at every person fighting with homosexual tendencies as though it was one of your children, brother, sister, or grandchild. That's how we ought to look at people who are hurting their body with out-of-control appetite. We need to love each other. The family of God needs to be the safest haven on earth.

Robert, do I have any of that spit in the corner of my mouth like you usually get? [Laughter] See, I watch Debbie down here going... That's what Betty does for me. She looks like a third base coach. Fix your tie. Fix your microphone. Pull your pants up. Wipe your forehead. Wipe your nose. James, James, James, don't wipe your mouth with what you wiped your nose with! She's giving me all these signals. [Laughter] Thank you, honey! Thank you, Debbie.

But I want you to see this. Look here. God says, "When you leave my truth and you change it..." By the way, we all fail. We all miss the mark. I've miss it. I miss it nearly every day! But I never move the standard to accommodate my failure. I keep looking to the standard bearer and the freedom giver to get back in line with the standard because that's the security and the hedge of protection. Does that make sense? So I've got to get back to the standard.

Now look at this. See if this doesn't sound like America—just like 2 Timothy 3 describing the last days. But look at this. Look at Romans 1: 28, “And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to depraved thinking.” They can't even think straight!

You listen to some of these commentators on television and some of these celebrities, they sound like basket cases. How many of you dads and moms want your little girl to be like Miley Cyrus? You think that little girl doesn't need an outpouring of God's love?—And Justin Bieber? God have mercy! [Laughter] And all the other athletes? Then our leaders who are anything but statesmen? They can't even sit down and have a good conversation.

Look at this. See if it sounds like today. “They do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boasters, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, no wisdom, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and, although they know the ordinance of God, those who practice such things are worthy of death”—that means that they don't have life.

It's not like fire is zapping them. The death is a death inside and they're walking corpses. You can look all around here and see people that just look like death warmed over—death trying to dress up—death trying to escape; looking for all the right things in all the wrong places. God help us! It breaks the heart of God. It breaks my heart.

“Those who practice such things are worthy of no abundant life, no life eternal”—but get this last phrase, “they not only do them, but they give hearty approval to those who practice them.” Supreme Court approves it. Congress approves it. Local elections approve it.

And we go to church and sing louder. Just like the churches did when the trains passed by carrying the Jews to the execution chambers while they were crying, “Anybody hear us?” We're in church. See we're too busy being “in church” instead of being the church.

Now let me tell you this and then we'll close. Now just listen to me. The fire consumed the sacrifice. What is the sacrifice that His fire will consume? A broken spirit and a contrite heart. We are to come like living stones, not stacking bricks, Baptist bricks, Pentecostal bricks, Catholic bricks—we are to be a holy habitation, be it with living stones, placed by the living God, through the Holy Spirit anointing, on apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers and yielded members who are connected one member to the other; this part with this part, so this part works in harmony with this head so that the body of Christ and God himself can put His arms around a broken, lost, dying world and pull them to His heart in redemptive grace. That's what God wants!

And the sacrifice? What Betty and I memorized more than 50 years ago when the shyest kid God ever saw, me, got called to preach. A little boy that met Jesus who didn't have a father, the product of rape, who lived in poverty, who was never picked when they picked teams; I was still standing there when they went off to play. Nobody knew me. I moved 17 times in 10 years. Nobody ever thought I could do anything. But one night God said, “I'll use you.” I memorized the verse: “I beseech you, therefore brethren by the mercies of God that you present your body, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you'll know the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.” And I said “yes” to God.

And this little church girl singing in the choir and teaching Sunday school said, “James, I don’t know Jesus like that. He’s someone I always heard about.” She came out of the choir and she met the Jesus that came into my life and she presented her body a living sacrifice.

More than 50 years ago, my wife and I, two teenagers, presented to God the sacrifice of a broken contrite spirit. We lost our life for His kingdom sake. We lost our life in Him and found it in Him. And our children love Jesus. One of them went to heaven a year ago, three days after Christmas. She is alive. Her teenage children are full of God. Our 11 grandchildren love Jesus. Our children love Jesus. I invested in Robert and Debbie and Governor Huckabee; he came to work for me. And he was with me and helped plan that meeting, and the next meeting that brought Mr. Reagan here to say, “I know you can’t endorse me but I only say that to tell you believers I endorse you in when you believe.” And in a way, the world turned right side up in a moment.

Robert, I gave Him this sacrifice. He has consumed me with the fire—the holy fire. I’m an old, 70-year-old guy but I’m still consumed with the holy fire of God. Now here it is: Will you offer God that sacrifice and let him consume it with holy fire? Will you say, “God, every part of my body, every part of my life, my mind, my all, I give it to you. I give to you a living sacrifice. I want to be transformed by the renewing of my mind. I’m going to give you everything I am to everything you are for as long as I live until I see you in eternity. Others are going to see You in me right here, right now.”

Jesus said, “If you receive a prophet ...” Do you know what a prophet is? One sent from God. Not a future teller, a truth teller sent from God. “If you receive the one sent by God, if you receive him the way he is sent, the blessing that is on him will be on you.” Let me tell you something, you’re looking at a blessed man. Far from a perfect man, a perfect Savior, but you’re looking at one blessed man—blessed by the only One who knows how to bless.

Would you like for that holy fire to consume the sacrifice of your yielded life? If you would, I’m going to ask you in just a moment to pray, “God, I’m putting it all on the altar. You take over. When I walk out of here, You’re in charge for as long as I’m breathing and for all eternity, for Your glory and Your honor forever and ever.” If you mean that, I want to pray for you and you go out in that holy fire.

If you want it, I just want you to just stand where you are. Don’t come forward. Just stand right where you are. I want to pray for you. I want holy fire. Don’t get up because somebody else does. This is between you and God. I’m going to pray for those of you who are saying, “Consume the sacrifice of my broken heart and my life right now. Fill me with the fire of God.”

Reach over and take the hand of the person next to you. Say out loud, “We are family. God is our Father. Jesus is our source, our strength, our Savior and our hope. I yield my life to You. Cleanse me; fill me to overflowing with holy fire—Your love, Your boldness, Your compassion.” [Audience repeats]

Father, I pray for everyone who just said those words. I believe it came from their heart. I’m asking You to consume the sacrifices of a broken heart, a contrite spirit, and to send us out of here like a mighty army filled with the fire of God with the river of life flowing freely through us, and causing life to spring up everywhere we go as witnesses unto him. To God be the glory! Amen and amen! God bless all of you.