



[DTGm Revelation Studies](#)

Episode 97 - Walking in Love: Revelation, Repentance, and the Cross

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Scott Stanley of DTG Ministries explores the book of Revelation and Scripture to urge believers to walk in love, understand God's character, and be free from iniquity.

He contrasts church traditions with heartfelt study, emphasizes repentance as the gateway to receiving forgiveness, and uses the cross as a mirror for self-examination.

Drawing on Proverbs and Job, he calls for humility, seeking God's wisdom, and readiness for end-times judgment—warning against dying without knowledge.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to the KJV for verbatim wording.

This is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, looking at the book of Revelation, contemplating what is coming on this earth, what is happening in the churches, trying to understand how to walk with God free from iniquity.

I came to the Lord in December of 1979, and I made a decision to serve God. I was excited about it, and of course, I began studying and trying to understand why other people were not studying too. I was in and out of various churches and saw that people were studying what their church believed instead of studying to see what the truth is. Of course, they thought they had the truth, or they wouldn't be there, but when I would see something that was different from their creed, and I would share it with them, there was usually a rejection of that, and people didn't want to go beyond what they had been taught all their lives.

It's so hard for people, isn't it? That's a very hard thing to do, to step outside of the box that they are in and put yourself in. Step outside of that box and see something different, because there are basic things in Christianity that all Christians believe that are wrong, but they hold to that stuff with all their power and might.

One thing that helped me tremendously was realizing how God is love and understanding what love is, how love doesn't make a record, and changing the way I read the Bible to stay in that mindset, to stay in that frame of mind that God doesn't make a record of sin... and so who is God? Who is this God that I want to serve? Because I believed in God, but believing in God is not the same as knowing God. If you have the courage to read the scripture, letting God reveal himself to you, then you get a different picture of him than what the churches paint. There's something different that comes out.

Now I'm sitting here, having had years of experience and study, digging to understand the Spirit of God and possess the Spirit of God, and know the truth. I see God, and to me, this is important that we get this. God would have us walk in love; of course, we know this. If you've been listening to these podcasts on Revelation, on Podbean, you understand that God would have us walk in love. Love is the main thing. The two greatest commandments are to love God and love your neighbor as yourself. That's what God wants of you.

In Galatians 5:14, Paul says *loving your neighbor fulfills all of it*, and that's because if you're loving your neighbor, you're showing love to God. You're showing obedience to God. He would have you love your neighbor. If you think about it, when you look at the cross, you see Christ portraying humanity on that cross. And who is he portraying? He is

portraying you and your neighbor, and you're to love your neighbor as yourself. You're both on that cross.

When you can look at that cross and recognize the grace that God has been showing you all your life, then that grace is sufficient for you to show everyone else. That is what God would have us do: walk in love. I know churches come up with all of these things that they feel like you need to do in order to be saved. They're always taking things from the New Testament and making them literal: The Lord's supper, baptism, speaking in tongues, I mean, all the stuff that they come up with.

But the truth of the matter is, if a person would only see himself and be honest about it, realizing something isn't right. You know, that takes courage, it takes a lot of courage to do that. It takes a lot of humility to do that, recognizing "I'm not exactly right." That is why understanding the cross became so needful for me. Listen, I know everybody on the planet needs that. They need that information. But for me, it became food for myself.

You know, I look at myself, I see weaknesses, I see problems, I see where things could be better in my life, but I also see that understanding what I do, I'm having victory, and not victory over small things, big things, and it just keeps happening. I can see that I am the Lord's workmanship. He is working in me, and He is causing me to rethink and redo and to be made in the image of His only begotten Son.

Now, when you find yourself stumbling, when you find yourself at odds, you've got to find humility. You must. You must find humility and find that repentance that comes from godly sorrow. You don't want to be at odds with God. He is right. He is the one who has perfect knowledge. So I want to read something, and this is out of Proverbs 2. I want to read it because it so feeds me to know what it means, to know what it says.

I know we're living in the last days. I know that if it's the end of the world, the gospel will go to all the world for a witness, that there will be a great tribulation caused by the giving of the gospel, and that the majority of people who claim to be Christians are going to reject the truth. And really, I mean, what do you expect? If they're not reading their Bibles and digging with an open heart, what do you expect? Why would they believe anybody like me? Why would they even listen to anyone like me?

I just had an experience with somebody that I met back in the early 80s, and he was instrumental in bringing me into the Adventist church. In fact, he wanted to baptize me, but there was an SDA preacher who wanted to do it. But we were close friends; our families were very close. Recently, I was trying to find his son, and instead I found him, and we had a nice chat. Of course, you start getting into theology.

You know, he's all into "you've got to keep that law, and you've got to keep the Sabbath." We started getting into the Son of God, and every truth that would save a person's soul, he rejected. It became ridiculous, I mean, to the point that I said, "God is love and love doesn't make a record of sin, and Jesus proved that on the cross. '*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.*'"

And he said, "Well, you don't think they were forgiven, do you?" I said, "Well, of course I do. Jesus said, Father, forgive..." "Well, you don't believe they were forgiven." I said, "Well, I do believe that." ... "Well, I don't believe it. You've got to repent to be forgiven," and I said, "You have to repent to receive it."

Listen to me. You must repent to receive forgiveness. God can forgive you all day long. You know, after I had the discussion with him, I thought to myself, "Well, you know, I can forgive somebody. I can forgive somebody who's come against me. I can forgive anybody I want to." But that doesn't mean they receive it. But as far as I am concerned, I can forgive anyone. Well, so can God, and if God is not making a record, the only other way is that he's forgiven you. He's not going to hold that against you.

When he wants to move in your life and help you, yeah, you did something, you did things, and you'll be held accountable for what you've done. For God to forgive you doesn't mean you're not held accountable. You've done things that you need to rectify. You've done things that you need to repent. If you're going to receive his forgiveness, you must repent. If you don't see what you've done is wrong, the church can help you see that. But if you reject the church, Jesus said in Matthew 18, "Treat them as a heathen." Why? Because they're not understanding the love of God.

Love is not just something that he just pats you on the head and lets you do anything you want to do, and just keeps forgiving you. There is no forgiveness without repentance, and you know what I mean by that. God can forgive you, which, if you don't

repent, you'll never receive that forgiveness, and repent means you're not going to go back and keep doing that. You've got to admit what you did was wrong. You've got to repent.

So, reading this in Proverbs 2... and because I've talked to this guy, it actually was discouraging, to be honest about it, because these were truths I was sharing with him. It's irrefutable. Irrefutable. Talking about the Trinity and John 1:1 "*In the beginning was the Word,*" you know, I said, "Well, what is 'the word'? That word, 'word', is 'logos.' It's a concept. Jesus was a concept in the mind of God that was made flesh." I said, "That goes exactly with Proverbs 8." Dead silence. When I quoted that, there was just dead silence. Then there's a chuckle, and he changes the subject and goes on.

That right there hit him like a freight train, I'm telling you. I'm telling you guys, giving you a tool you can use. Another one, when he was going down the track of the Sabbath, I said, "Well, you know..." then he brings up the sixth day, "*Let us make man in our image,*" and I said, "Well, you know, we're in the sixth day, the sixth day isn't finished. What you're reading in Genesis hasn't even happened yet."

There was silence. I said, "Paul says, in Hebrews 2..." after quoting that *all things will be put under our feet*, "Paul says, '*That hadn't happened yet.*' And we know in 1 Corinthians 15 when he puts all things under our feet, that's the end. We're waiting for that to happen. The sixth day isn't finished; therefore, the seventh day hasn't even begun." Total silence. Then a chuckle, change the subject. Let's go on.

Honestly, if you really are honest in heart, and you want to stand with Jesus, not with your church... you don't have to be loyal to that church. You want to know the truth, and you want to stand on the truth. I've always felt like I'm doing a lot of studying, I'm teaching things. If you can show me I'm wrong, I'm not going to stand on a lie. I'm going to say I've been wrong. I want the truth.

What is going on in these churches is that people are loyal to that stuff. They don't make the effort to know anything different, and if somebody challenges that, you become the enemy. That is what happens. That is what is going to happen to the point that they would just as soon put you to death, shut you up, quit saying these things. It's a torment to them. Proverbs 2, verse 1,

Pro 2:1 My son, if you'll receive my words, and hide my commandments with you;

What are his commandments? I want to ask the church, "When I see the commandments of God, I think of *love God and love your neighbor as yourself, because all of the law is fulfilled in that*. But what if they come back and go, 'No, it's the Ten Commandments.'" I'm just asking you, what could you show a person that the law is no longer just simply the Ten Commandments, keeping it literally, it's to love God and love your neighbor?

I want to leave that thought with you. I want you to think about it. How would you prove that to somebody? Because this verse, "*Receive my words and hide my commandments with you...*" If I say he's talking about love, he is talking about loving God and being obedient to him and loving my neighbor as myself. *Hide that in your heart*. Hide that in your heart,

Pro 2:2 So that you'll incline, or you'll listen carefully, unto wisdom...

Now, we've been over all the verses, all the studies. Wisdom is pointing to the cross. Paul says, "*We teach, we preach the wisdom of God in a mystery. Jesus is the wisdom of God,*" (1Co 2:7; 1Co 1:24), and if I can look at the cross and understand that it is a portrayal of me and you, of every man on the planet... it is a portrayal of what is in our hearts. It is a portrayal of our guilt. It is a portrayal of our inability to forgive people. It is a portrayal of our nakedness when we act outside of God's righteousness. It is a portrayal of the darkness we live in. The land was dark, he had a crown of thorns, stripes on his back, nakedness. He is portraying the human soul. Listen again.

Pro 2:1 If you'll receive my words and hide my commandments, that I want you to walk in love, you hide those,

Pro 2:2 So that you will incline, you will listen carefully to wisdom.

You go to the cross and you look at that as if you're looking in a mirror. If you have any ounce of pride, it's got to go. Any ounce of pride, of exalting yourself, apply your heart to understanding. That word understanding is [8394], it is God's understanding. He has

given us the cross. Jesus has portrayed us. He has portrayed how we can be set free from iniquity. It's all right there on the cross.

Can you pull God's understanding out of that? Because if you can, that is the Holy Spirit. That is what the Holy Spirit is. It's the truth of how God sees man, the serpent on the pole, and how man can find death by committing their spirit to God. The way you see it... You want to change the way you see it and let God tell you how to see it.

That is why it just befuddles me to look at these people in these churches. They're not committed to God. They will fight you over the truth. They will deny the Lord and Savior, they will deny Him, they will deny the Father, they will deny it, so they can stay in that church with that group of people. Instead of wanting to cast aside all of the rebellion, all of the confusion, and stand clean before God in love, they refuse to do that. And talking to them can be very discouraging.

Again, truths that moved me... I'm telling you, they hit this guy like a freight train, and he refused to let God have his way. That's just the beginning of it. I'm telling you, I can't say he is the worst one out there, but he definitely is one of them out there that does not want the truth. But *if you'll receive my words and hide my commandments*, I know in my heart God wants me to walk in love. I know in my heart, God wants me to walk in love. Proverbs 2:1, *I know in my heart, God wants me to walk in love*. That will move you to listen carefully to wisdom, to go to the cross.

If you know God wants you to walk in love, you go to the cross to understand, to have written in your heart how you do that. You have to have a reason to do it. You have to have a reason. Your reason is, I want to obey God. He would have me walk in love. Therefore, I'm going to go to the cross. This is what He has given me. This is the tool he has given me: I'm going to walk in love, and I will listen intently to that cross. I will look at that cross like I'm looking in a mirror. I will see myself. I will be quiet, and I will contemplate sin... what I do to people, and what they have done to me. Crown of thorns stripes on the back. I will contemplate that crown of thorns. I will be quiet before God and let those things come into my mind.

Listen, do you want to be serious? Are you serious about your salvation? You've got to be redeemed from doctrinal iniquity so that you can be free to intently pay attention to

wisdom, that cross. Can you go and be quiet? Consider the people in your life. You won't talk to them. Why? "Well, I've written to them. Well, they won't listen. They don't want to know the truth." Okay. Okay. Has God given up on them? Probably not. He's going to give them the message. He is doing this for the whole world.

He is telling the whole world, and he knows he is sending his church as sheep in the midst of wolves. He knows that. You are sheep in the midst of wolves. You're his children. He will watch over you, but you are going to give a message that's going to cause a fight. People will fight you because you're challenging their church. A lot of people don't even know why they believe it. "Why does the church teach this? I don't know, but they teach it, I believe it. Makes me feel good. I'm comfortable here."

I mean, I can't remember a time in my life when I was ever like that. In fact, this very guy that I just talked to, the SDA, he told me one time, he said, "You are never satisfied. Why are you never satisfied? You always want to know something else. You're always challenging everything. Why are you never satisfied?" Well, honestly, I don't see how anybody can be. How can you be in Babylon? How can you be in darkness? How can you see your Bible, read verses that God would set you free from sin, and yet, you're not free, and you defend it... That you've got to get a new body, then you'll be okay. You defend that stuff.

You have an infinite mind. You have an infinite mind. I have been praying that God would give me his Spirit without measure, and I can remember when I first prayed that, I thought, "Whoa, you know, should I be asking that?" Well, of course! Your mind is infinite. Don't you want to know the Father even as you're known? Don't you want that? Are you waiting to die and go to heaven so that you can know him? That's ridiculous. God's bigger than that, man. God has managed a way.

Now, you can die right now. He has managed a way that you can be separated from that spirit that listens to the adversary. He'll give you a new spirit called the Holy Spirit. It doesn't listen to the adversary. It leads you away from the adversary into a connection with God. Can you look at yourself and realize, you know, I've got problems here. I'm struggling here. Lord, help me. I'm going to confess to you my weaknesses. I'm going to confess to you. I'm going to do what I can to help everybody in the church. I'm going to build them up. The stronger they get, the more they can help me. You don't have that

attitude? You need to go somewhere else. You need to go find somebody who doesn't care, like you don't care.

Pro 2:1 If you'll receive my words, hide my commandments of love,

Pro 2:2 So that you will listen intently to wisdom, and after you listen, then apply (that word "apply" is "to stretch") ... stretch your heart to God's understanding. (You've got to stretch. You've got to stretch and have God's understanding.)

Pro 2:3 Yea, if you will cry after knowledge (that word is [998], that's understanding), and lift up your voice in prayer for God's understanding [8394].

You've got to pray. You've got to go to the Lord. You've got to contemplate that cross. You've got to consider that cross. You've got to see yourself. You've got to admit you're messed up. You're not right. It needs to be corrected. Who's going to do that? Well, God's going to give you words. You are his workmanship, and he expects you to apply, to stretch your heart. Lift up your voice to God, and he will come in there, and he will help you. You cry after him, lift up your voice.

Pro 2:4 If you will seek her as you would silver, and you search for her as for hidden treasure.

Pro 2:5 That's when you're considering the fear of the LORD, and you're going to find the knowledge of God.

Pro 2:6 Because Jehovah will give wisdom: out of his mouth will come knowledge and his understanding.

Now, I could keep reading this. The reason I wanted to read this in the first place is that it just ministers to me. I read this all the time. It's like a morning worship. Remember, go to the cross. Remember, apply your heart, stretch your heart to receive God's understanding of it. Do you have pride? Do you have an ounce of it? It'll kill you. You've got to put it away. I want to turn to Job 36.

Job 36:1 Elihu also proceeded, and said,

Who is this Elihu guy? Well, when you read Job, you have the three guys who come to him, can't answer him, can't satisfy him, and the fourth guy, Elihu, shows up. I have learned that what Elihu says is right on the money. He tells Job where he's wrong. But

it's this part right here I want to share with those who have ears to hear. Those who are born from above, you know Jesus is the Son of God. He says,

Job 36:2 Suffer me a little, and I'm going to show you that I have yet to speak on God's behalf.

Job 36:3 I will fetch my knowledge from afar (that's what I feel like I just read in Proverbs 2), and I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.

Job 36:4 For truly my words will not be false (Why?) Because he that is perfect in knowledge is with you.

So you've got somebody who's perfect in knowledge. Why would you not approach him in all humility? Get rid of all your pride. You don't want to be prideful to your friends. You don't want to be prideful in this church. God is perfect in knowledge.

Job 36:5 Behold, God is mighty. He despises not any. (Remember, he would have all men be saved, 1Tm 2:4). He is mighty in strength and wisdom.

Job 36:6 He preserves not the life of the wicked: but he gives judgment to the poor.

That word "right" is [4941], "judgment." Remember Deuteronomy 32:4, *his ways are judgment*. But let's keep narrowing it down. He will give his decisions to the poor, and he gives them to you one at a time. What he is telling you is the way he would do it. Oh yeah, that's what we prayed on the cross, isn't it? Into your hands I commit my spirit. I want you to tell me your way. Well, he doesn't preserve the life of the wicked, but he's going to give those who are poor in spirit his judgments. He will give you what you need to do. Is it always fun and exciting? No, it is not. That's why it takes humility to do this.

Job 36:7 He withdraws not the eyes of his understanding from those who are righteous. But with kings, are they on the throne; yea, he doth establish them forever, and they are exalted.

You can sit on that throne if you realize this is the throne of Jehovah. He is the guy making the decisions. He is the guy giving you the judgments, but he isn't going to give them to you if you're not asking. Then you act on those judgments that he gives you.

Job 36:8 If they be bound in fetters, and if they're held in cords of affliction;

Can you make that spiritual? Can you understand that he's talking about iniquity and anger and guilt and just all of the stuff people carry?

Job 36:8 If they're bound and fetters, and held in cords of affliction;

Job 36:9 Then he will show them their work (He's going to show you this is what you're doing.) and their transgressions that they have exceeded (their rebellion that they have exceeded).

Job 36:10 He opens their ear to discipline (or reform), and commands that they return from iniquity.

Iniquity is your killer. Pride helps you stay in it. Iniquity is your killer.

Job 36:10 He'll open your ear to discipline and command that you turn from iniquity... return from iniquity.

Job 36:11 If they obey and serve him, they are going to spend their days in prosperity, and their years will be in pleasantness and pleasure.

Job 36:12 But if they don't obey, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall (here is the god-awful thing you never want to do) die without knowledge.

Is that what you want in your life? You want to die without knowledge? So you come before the judgment seat of Christ, and you're going to choose that time to try to understand Him? Are you going to die without knowledge? That's where this world is headed. They're going to die without knowledge. He's going to send His church, tell them the truth, but the truth of the matter is, they're probably going to die without knowledge. But I'm reading this to the church.

Job 36:13 But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath: they cry not when he binds them.

Job 36:14 They die in youth, and their life is among the unclean.

Job 36:15 He delivers the poor in his affliction, and he opens their ears in oppression.

Job 36:16 Even so would he have removed you out of the straight into a broad place, where there is no straightness, and that which should be set on your table should be full of fatness.

Job 36:17 But you have fulfilled the judgment of the wicked: judgment and justice are taking hold of you.

Job 36:18 Because there is wrath, beware, lest he takes you away with his stroke. Then a great atonement cannot deliver you.

Job 36:19 Will he esteem your riches (the understanding you have)? No, not your gold, nor all the forces of your strength.

Job 36:20 Desire not the night, when people are cut off in their place.

Job 36:21 Take heed, regard not iniquity: for this have you chosen rather than affliction.

That affliction he's talking about is not your physical pain. It's the affliction of soul and heart when you have to do what you don't want to do. But maybe you're choosing your iniquity. When you do, you're going to be afflicted in different ways. I could get into that too, but I'm not going to.

I want you to understand we're at the end of the world. There is a message to be given, and our hearts need to be right, and we need to have that ornament of grace about our heads. We need to have those chains around our neck and bind the adversary, which is the author of iniquity, and understand what it means to walk in love. Love demands repentance and obedience. It demands it. Don't die without knowledge.

Most gracious Heavenly Father, be glorified in your church. Be glorified in your church, and I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.