

Missions Conference

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 27 September 2025

Preacher: Raymond Graham

[0:00] 7 through to 13.

Would you stand with me as we read God's word. Listen.

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him. You brood of vipers. So what's the chapter?

I'm sorry. Chapter 3. Luke chapter 3. Yes. I will begin again.

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him. You brood of vipers. Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come.

[1:11] Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves. We have Abraham as our father. For I tell you.

God is able. For these. From these stones to raise up children. For Abraham. Even now the axe is laid at the root of the trees.

Every tree therefore that bears not good fruit. Is cut down and thrown into the fire. And the crowds asked him. What then shall we do?

And he answered them. Whoever has two tunics. Is to share with him who has none. And whoever has food. Is to do likewise.

Tax collectors. Also came to be baptized. And said. To him. Teacher. What shall we do? And he said to them.

[2:13] Collect no more than you are authorized. To do. Soldiers. Also asked him. And we. What shall we do?

And he said to them. Do not extort money. From anyone. That threats. By threats. Or by false accusation. And be content.

With your wages. Okay. Y decía las multitudes que salían para ser bautizadas por él. O generación de víboras.

¿Quién os enseñó a oír de la ira venidera? Haced pues. Frutos dignos de arrepentimiento. Y no comencéis a decir dentro de vosotros mismos. Tenemos a Abraham. Por padre.

Porque os digo que Dios puede levantar hijos a Abraham. A un de estas piedras. Y ya el hache está puesta a las raíces de los árboles. Por tanto. Todo árbol que no da buen fruto. Se corta. Y se echa en el fuego.

[3:11] Y la gente le preguntaba. Diciendo. Entonces. ¿Qué haremos? Respondiendo. Les dijo. El que tiene dos túnicas. De al que no tiene. Y el que tiene que comer. Haga lo mismo. Vinieron también. Unos publicanos para ser bautizados.

Y le dijeron. Maestro. ¿Qué haremos? Él les dijo. No exijáis más de lo que os está ordenado. También le preguntaron unos soldados. Diciendo. ¿Y nosotros? ¿Qué haremos? Él les dijo.

No hagáis extorsión a nadie. Ni calumniéis. Y contentaos con vuestro salario. La palabra de Dios. La palabra de Dios.

Please be seated. Puede sentarse, por favor. Would you bow your heads. And let's have a prayer. Vamos, Padre. Our gracious Father. Thank you for this evening.

Padre misericordioso. Gracias por esta noche. Long ago. Long ago. You determined. That we would be here. Hace mucho tiempo determinaste. Que íbamos a estar aquí. And we praise you.

[4:07] For the purpose. For which you have. Established this meeting. Y te damos gracias por el propósito. Para el cual tú has establecido esta reunión. Bless your word. To our hearts. Bendice tu palabra.

A nuestros corazones. In Jesus name. En el nombre de Jesús. Amen. Amen. The text read. We would go forward in considering it tonight.

El texto que vamos a estar considerando esta noche. The scripture of emphasis for this weekend's meetings.

For the meetings this weekend. Is the scripture in Romans chapter 10 and verse 15. El centro central de la escritura está en Romanos para esta conferencia.

It refers to a phrase in Isaiah. It was there first in Isaiah 52 and verse 7.

[5:06] Se refiere a una cita que está en Isaiah 52 versículo 7. How beautiful are the feet. How beautiful are the feet.

Cuán hermosos son los pies. When we look at the text. When we look at this phrase. It's a very interesting one. Because.

Very often. Someone who is journeying on foot. Doesn't really have beautiful feet. Esta es una frase interesante. Porque usualmente una persona que está caminando.

Con los pies. Vamos a poner en aquellos tiempos. Los pies no están hermosos. In fact perhaps I should say that not often. Or always are the feet revealed.

No siempre. I'm glad. To be able to determine the beauty. A veces ni siquiera se revelan los pies de uno. Para que se vea la hermosura que tiene. So I think you would agree with me.

[6:02] That this is not primarily referring to the aesthetics. Ustedes se van a dar cuenta. Probablemente ya saben. Que ton se refiere a la estética de los pies. But it is actually referring to.

It's symbolic. Esto es realmente simbólico. Of the characteristics. De las características. Of someone who is delivering good tidings. De alguien que está llevando las buenas nuevas.

John the Baptist. Juan el Bautista. Is in fact someone that we are to pay very close attention to. As we talk about the good news.

Juan el Bautista. Es alguien al cual debemos prestar atención cercana. He was. He was. The forerunner of our Lord. He was the precursor de nuestro Señor.

He brought good news. De las buenas nuevas. In this text. Our brother Luke is presenting to us. In este texto. Que nuestro hermano Lucas nos está presentando. His account of the redemption story.

[7:04] Este recuento de la historia de la redención. And we are told that the crowd came out to be baptized. By him. Y vemos que la multitud venía a ser bautizada por él.

Again bear in mind. That he is the forerunner of Jesus Christ. Mantengan en sus mentes. Que él es el precursor del Señor Jesucristo. The ultimate bringer of good news.

El que realmente iba a traer las buenas nuevas. And the redemption story. Is the story of what God has done for his people in Jesus Christ.

Y la historia de la redención. Es lo que Dios ha hecho por su pueblo en Jesucristo. Most of us are very well familiar with the story of the gospel.

Of how Jesus Christ came. But what he came to do. Was to save his lost people. Estamos familiarizados con la historia del evangelio.

[8 : 06] Y lo que el Señor vino a hacer es. A salvar su pueblo. And in putting this in context. We will need to reflect on the Genesis account.

Of what went bad. Ponerlo en contexto. Tenemos que referirnos a la historia del Genesis. Why good news become necessary.

Porque las buenas nuevas se hacen necesarias. Because good news is wonderful. Las buenas nuevas son maravillosas. But it is good as against another background.

Son buenas comparadas con un trasfondo. La historia que hemos leído aquí.

Gives us an understanding that at the beginning. We go back to the Genesis. And we remember how that God created man. And we are told how he created him.

[9 : 05] And how man was supposed to honor God. As a result of his rebellion. Man now is lost.

Eso nos lleva, nos remonta al Genesis. Cuando Dios creó al hombre. Y cuando el hombre se revela contra Dios. And need the good news. Y necesitaba una buena noticia.

Am I being clear? Estoy siendo claro? Good. I don't often preach with an interpreter. Yo usualmente no predico con interpreters. So I'm adjusting. Me estoy ajustando.

Now Luke wrote here. And he says, I am writing to you to present to you an orderly account of the things that you have heard.

In other words, you have heard a lot. Both you have seen other documents. And you are aware of the oral narrative that is going about.

[10 : 05] And I am attempting to make clear to you an orderly account of these things. He is referring to Luke that he was willing to try to put in order the history of things that among you.

And he is trying to put them here in a clear way in this evangelium. Like the other gospel writers, you will notice that Luke emphasized the preaching of the good news, the gospel, as well as the news of the Savior that was born.

Él quería fatizar las buenas nuevas del evangelio y también acerca del Salvador, Salvador que había nacido. It's the news of the great joy that is being proclaimed. It's the news of the Savior.

Las nuevas de gran gozo para la proclamación del Salvador. He began by setting the stage for the ministry of Jesus. Él está preparando el escenario para el ministerio de Jesucristo.

And he describes John the Baptist who was the forerunner, who was setting the stage for the ministry of Jesus. Él está describiendo a Juan el Bautista como aquel precursor que estaba preparando el escenario para el Señor Jesucristo.

[11 : 15] And John the Baptist was now a fulfillment of the prophecy to be found in Malachi chapter 5 and verse 4 to 6. Y ahora Juan el Bautista era el cumplimiento de la profecía que estaba en Malachi.

Which says, behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and the awesome day of the Lord comes. And it will turn the hearts of the Father to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers.

Y va a volver el corazón de los hijos contra los padres, los padres contra los hijos. Lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction. A menos que yo ataque, en vista, ataque con destrucción.

So John is preaching here. And John is preaching that there is a provision of forgiveness of sin.

Él está predicando que hay una provisión para el perdón de pecados. He's preaching repentance. Está predicando la repentación. Because it is only upon repentance that the forgiveness of sin can be granted.

- [12 : 26] Porque es bajo la premisa del arrepentimiento que el perdón puede ser otorgado. He preached baptism symbolizing the death of Jesus Christ.

El bautismo simbolizando la muerte del Señor Jesús. Yes, and the death and the burial and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

La muerte, el enterrado y la resurrección de Jesucristo. He was a voice crying in the wilderness. Él estaba en el desierto. Saying, make ready the way of the Lord. Make the path straight for him.

So this was John's assignment. He was very clear about what he was called to do. He says, I am a voice. I'm crying in the wilderness. And I'm saying, make ready the way of the Lord.

Make his path straight. Él estaba preparando el camino, enderezando las sendas. Los caminos torcidos y ya, pero que fueran allanados. Él estaba... So John bore good news. Él estaba llevando las buenas nuevas.

- [13 : 24] He had beautiful feet. Él tenía pies hermosos. Bearing good news. Muy buenas nuevas. And if we take note in the text, we realize that he was a man that would not compromise.

Si prestamos atención al texto, él no se sentía comprometido con nada. He was very strong. He was very forceful. He was very blunt. He knew what his assignment was.

Él sabía lo que estaba haciendo y cuál era su labor, su asignación. Very often we realize that people like good news. Nos damos cuenta que a las personas les gustan las buenas noticias.

In Proverbs it says, good news is like a drink of cold water to a thirsty soul. En los Proverbs uno dice que una buena noticia es como un vaso de agua fría a una persona sedienta.

In this case, the challenge is not many who want the good news is interested in what needs to be done to have the good news.

- [14 : 25] El reto es aquí que muchas personas que quieren las buenas noticias no están dispuestos a enfrentar el reto. Not many are interested in repenting. Y no están interesados en el arrepentimiento. And I believe just like it is here in America.

Yo quiero como aquí en América. And Jamaica. Yo soy de Jamaica. It's the case globally. Es el caso en todo el mundo. Where people would love to have their best life now. Todo el mundo quisiera su mejor vida ahora.

Not interested in really repenting of sins. Ellos no están realmente interesados en el arrepentimiento de sus pecados. I have just read the book Preaching for Conversions by Jeff Smith.

Yo estuve leyendo un libro Predicar para la Conversión de Jeff Smith. It's a very wonderful book that expresses the importance of not compromising the gospel message.

Está hablando de que nosotros no debemos negociar la verdad del evangelio. We believe that repentance is at the heart of the gospel message. El arrepentimiento está en el corazón del mensaje del evangelio.

- [15 : 32] In the text read we see that many heard John preach the gospel. En el texto vemos que muchos escucharon a Juan predicando el evangelio. And they came to be baptized.

Y vinieron a ser bautizados. But John said that they failed to actually manifest the fruit of repentance. Pero ellos fallaron en manifestar el fruto del arrepentimiento.

They anticipated a messiah. Ellos estaban anticipando un messiah. They're Jewish people. They've long heard about the coming of the messiah. Ellos eran judíos. Estaban anhelando la venida del messiah.

That they were interested in. Y en eso ellos estaban interesados. But they were not obviously many of them were not interested in repenting and bearing fruit of righteousness.

Pero muchos de ellos no estaban realmente interesados en el arrepentimiento y en dar frutos. Of course they asked John whether he was the messiah. And he dismissed the notion because he did not want them to be mistaken.

[16:34] We do know that many wanted baptism but rejected the Lord, the messiah.

Because when Jesus Christ came, when Jesus Christ came they rejected him. Algunos que fueron bautizados ahí, ellos realmente, eso no implicó que luego adelante rechazaran al verdadero messiah.

So it does seem like they were well interested in the things of, you know, the things that they liked rather than how they were interested in repenting of their sins.

Ellos estaban interesados en las cosas que les gustaban en vez de arrepentirse de sus pecados. There's a lost world out there. There's the, we do know that the only thing that is able to bring salvation is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul says in Romans, I am not ashamed of this gospel. For it is the power of God unto salvation. And that is why when we bring the gospel, we are considered beautiful feet.

[17:58] It's used metaphorically. But indeed this is what we are supposed to be bearers of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But it's really what we are supposed to be bearers of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I want to take a look at repentance and what true repentance is. I was motivated to look at this more keenly as I read Preaching for Conversions.

Because you will notice that John is making it clear here that true repentance must engage our repenting of our personal sins.

Because Lucas, in the story, is the repentance. Yes. The implication, what is the result?

A fail to commit to true repentance. True repentance. Repenting of personal sins. Que no estaban realmente interesados en arrepentirse verdaderamente de sus pecados.

[19:10] So John called for heart preparation. John is calling for the preparation of the heart. He is wanting to make sure that it is not a superficial repentance.

And I'm doing this because I know that there are many people who are well interested in the things of the church. But fail to actually turn away from the things that God is calling us to turn away from.

The issue of the emphasis is that the true repentance is that the true repentance is a transformation, a change, a result. Many people are not interested in the things that God is calling us to turn away from. So John says, make ready the way of the Lord.

In verse 4. Make ready the way of the Lord. Make ready the way of the Lord. Make his path straight. Y que sus caminos sean allanados. He uses the word wilderness to describe their hearts.

He uses mountains and hills as a symbol of pride. Montañas y colinas como un simbolismo de orgullo.

[20:15] And he uses crooked path to refer to anything that is perverse, anything that is deceitful, anything that is dangerous. He calls it rough roads.

He is calling them to remove the obstacles of unbelief. Le está diciendo que remuevan los obstáculos de la incredulidad.

The obstacles of selfishness. Los obstáculos del orgullo. The obstacles of lust and self-love and sin which are prevailing in our world today.

Los obstáculos de la lujuria, esos pecados que son un impedimento en estos días. John moves forward and in verse 7 he said, He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him.

You brood of vipers. Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come. Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come.

[21 : 19] Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come. Repentance from sin must not be limited to the problems that it causes in this world. El arrepentimiento de los pecados no simplemente para solucionar los problemas en este mundo.

To repent of sin is not just because of what it causes in this world. Because John realizing this, he said you are to flee from the wrath to come.

Esto no era para solucionar un problema aquí temporal. Porque él está diciendo huir de la ira venidera. He's making it clear that there is a terrible day that is coming.

And it is ahead and there needs to be a proper understanding of this. Él está advirtiéndole de que iba a venir un día de juicio. Y que tenía que tener un entendimiento claro de lo que significaba eso.

For those of us who are believers in Jesus Christ. We are fully convinced. Estamos completamente convencidos. That there is a day that is ahead that is coming.

[22 : 19] And it is against that background that we are to carry the good news of the gospel. And call people to repentance.

Life is filled with all kinds of difficulties and challenges. And we do understand that they will end up in eternal punishment.

People will end up in eternal punishment. Because of rejecting the provision that God has made in Jesus Christ. The audience that John was preaching to was well aware.

So when John said you are to flee from the wrath to come. He was talking to an audience that knew what he meant.

They had been there. They were aware of the Old Testament. The vengeance of God that would come.

[23 : 35] But now he is saying to them you are to flee. You are to flee from it. You know there is a sense in which many people fail to understand.

That not only are we guilty of the sins of Adam. But we are guilty of our own sinfulness on top of that.

And it is not enough to say well Jesus has done it for me. No solamente es suficiente decir oh Jesus lo ha hecho por me.

But John is now saying you are to produce the fruit of repentance. Pero ahora Juan le está diciendo ustedes tienen que producir el fruto de ese arrepentimiento.

I will put a greater emphasis on my next session on the text in Romans. Voy a poner el próximo énfasis en el texto en Romans. But I believe that I wanted to lay the background and the reminder that we have here regarding the need to faithfully preach the gospel.

[24 : 43] Pero yo quería recordarles que fielmente tenemos que predicar el evangelio. I do believe it's the reason many of you have gone on mission fields. Esta es la razón por la cual algunos de ustedes han ido al campeón misionero.

Your country is in many ways a comfortable place. Su país donde están es en muchas formas un lugar muy comfortable.

I know many because of all that's going on in our world today it doesn't seem like it. But you just go to some other places and you will realize that as much as there are major challenges.

Yet the Lord has been kind to this your nation. Ustedes van a otros lugares y realmente van a tener que entender que Dios ha sido muy bueno para con nuestra nación aquí en este país.

And when we have the gospel message we realize that this is something that we must be faithful with. Tenemos que ser fiel a este mensaje del evangelio.

[25 : 44] John said to the crowd, the audience, do not just say or do not just come to do this baptism.

But be sure that beyond the act of baptism you are bearing fruits of righteousness.

Muy claramente Juan el Bautista diciéndole a su audiencia, ustedes han venido aquí a ser bautizados pero asegúrense que están dando el fruto de ese arrepentimiento. In other words, a superficial repentance is not sufficient.

En otras palabras, un arrepentimiento superficial no es suficiente. You imagine that he's talking to these people who are running to him. They're not running away from him, they're running to him.

Estas personas que estaban ahí estaban corriendo hacia él. And they're coming to be baptized. And John is saying, you brood of viper, who has warned you?

[26 : 46] How do you have somebody that's coming to be baptized and they're doing what they think they need to do and the preacher is saying to them, that's not enough.

Imagínese usted, estas personas que están corriendo hacia nosotros para bautizarse y arrepentirse y entonces él le predica, eso no es suficiente. There has to be more.

Tiene que haber más. It is true that to be a believer is not just to be justified, but also sanctification is always coupled with justification.

Está unida a la santificación y la justificación. My understanding of Romans chapter 8 and verse 1. Mi entendimiento de Romanos 8, versículo 1.

The Apostle Paul says, there is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. En Romanos 8, 1 dice, ninguna condemnation hay para los que están en Cristo Jesús. Who walk not after the flesh.

[28 : 01] Los cuales no andan conforme a la carne. But after the spirit. Sino conforme al espíritu. I think that the walk there. La palabra caminar allí.

Representa nuestra vida de santificación. And Paul is saying, John is saying here that your life is to be sanctified.

Y en lo que está diciendo ahí, Pablo ahí, que nuestra vida debe ser santificada. In looking at true repentance, according to John here.

El arrepentimiento conforme a Juan aquí. The Jews of course thought that they could gain their right standing with God through their self-righteousness. Los judíos pensaban que podían estar bien ante Dios por su auto-justicia.

And this is the case for many people. Y este es el caso para muchas personas. They believe that if they go to church on Christmas Sunday. Ellos van a la iglesia el día de Navidad. They believe that if they are benevolent.

[29 : 07] Si son benevolentes. If they believe that if they are, you know, doing some good deeds like the rich young ruler. Y si están haciendo buenas obras como el hombre rico.

They are okay. And John confronted this audience. And he's saying to them, you're doing another religious thing which has been baptized.

But it's not sufficient. Y él está diciendo, bueno, está bien. Ustedes están haciendo lo que deben, viniendo a bautizarse. Pero esto no es suficiente. Now you are to produce the fruits of righteousness.

Ahora tienen que producir los frutos de justicia. The fruits of righteousness. El fruto de justicia. Take note. Tomen nota. That in verse 10. In verse 10 we will see the statement of true repentance.

And true repentance equals transformation. En el versículo 10 vemos aquí una indicación de un verdadero arrepentimiento. Y un verdadero arrepentimiento implica una transformación.

[30:11] And the crowd asked him, verse 10. What then shall we do? And he answered them, whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none. And whoever has food is to do likewise.

And then tax collectors also came to be baptized by him and said, teacher, what shall we do? And he said to them, call it no more than you are authorized to do.

Soldiers also asked him, and we, what shall we do? And he said to them, do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation and be content with your wages.

Now, we've read this before, but the essence of this is, now John, after he speaks to them, he's saying, they are asking him, what are we to do?

What are we to do? So, in the verse 10, I'm going to read and it says, people asked him, what are we going to do? And he answered, the one who has two tunics, the one who has no one, the one who has to eat, do the same thing.

[31:14] And they also came to the publicans to be baptized and they said, teacher, what are we going to do? And he said, don't ask you more than what is ordered. And he also asked him, the soldiers, what are we going to do? And he said, don't do extortion to anyone, nor calumniate you, and answer with your salary.

Essentially, what John is saying here is that true repentance results in transformation. Lo que está aquí Juan diciendo es que el verdadero arrepentimiento resulta en una transformación.

True repentance will always result in a change of attitude and a change of behavior. El verdadero arrepentimiento va a mostrar un cambio de actitud en el corazón.

He's interested in seeing them proving the reality of repentance. Él estaba interesado en verles a ellos probando la realidad de su arrepentimiento.

The evidence of salvation we have come to realize is the transformation that is brought about in our lives.

[32:25] La evidencia de nuestra salvación es la transformación que se ha obrado en nuestra vida. Esa es la evidencia. We take note of the Apostle Paul in the book of Acts.

Y vemos al Apostle Pablo en el libro de Hechos. And how he went against God, against the people of God. Como él estaba en contra del pueblo de Dios.

Pero cuando él se encontró con el Señor. Su vida cambió.

Para lo mejor. He started becoming obedient to God's laws. Comenzó a ser obediente a las leyes de Dios. No, we do know that a transformed life is not suggesting work righteousness.

No estamos sugiriendo que es una vida de ahora de justicia propia. Because salvation is all by the grace of God. Porque la salvación es totalmente por la gracia de Dios.

[33:28] And so we don't do righteous things to gain salvation. No hacemos las cosas buenas para ganarnos la salvación. But because we have salvation. Pero porque tenemos la salvación.

We obey God. Entonces obedecemos a Dios. We do good things. Hacemos buenas cosas. The crowd became interested in knowing what to do. La multitud estaba interesada en saber y qué tenían que hacer ellos.

And John gave them three ways. Y él les da tres formas. One he says to them, do not take money by force. Una vez no tomen dinero por fuerza.

Do not accuse falsely. No acusen falsamente. And be content with your wage. Y estén contentos con su salario. In other words, in addition to this baptism.

You are to now obey the commands of the Lord. And I believe. Yes, and it is clear in the scriptures.

[34 : 29] It is clear in the scriptures. That the transformation. That is to take place in our lives.

It is clear in the scriptures. That the transformation that has to occur in our lives. Will result. Will come about by true repentance. That is to take place in the true repentance.

And this is. The way the Lord creates. The pathway. To the heart. And so is how Dios. Cree the way to the heart.

John says prepare. The way for the Lord's. Coming. Coming. This is what. I have to share with us tonight.

As we continue to. Look at. The. Call. That we have. To. To bring the good news.

[35 : 28] The good news. The world is. Dying. And. The good news. The good news. The good news. And. And. It is only the good news. That will. Save those.

That the Lord has appointed. To salvation. Son. Estas buenas nuevas. Que van a ser usadas. Para. Salvar. Aquellos. Que han sido. Llamados. Para salvación.

So the call. To all of us. Is to. Go. To send. And. To. Be sure.

That we are. Obeying. Our Lord. Estamos. Llamados. Vamos a ir. Y. Tenemos que estar seguros. Que estamos. Obedeciendo. Al Señor.

Amen. Amen. You're welcome. Sorry.

[36 : 25] No. No. No.