

WEBVTT

1

00:00:01.979 --> 00:00:02.610

Carl Racine: Excuse me.

2

00:00:04.049 --> 00:00:04.890

Carl Racine: I am.

3

00:00:06.899 --> 00:00:09.030

Carl Racine: The first thing I want to say is.

4

00:00:10.349 --> 00:00:22.140

Carl Racine: Welcome to Carol target, who is visiting us today from also a member of temple Israel her sister congregation.

5

00:00:23.670 --> 00:00:24.210

Carl Racine: and

6

00:00:25.890 --> 00:00:27.180

Carl Racine: It will be.

7

00:00:28.710 --> 00:00:36.120

Carl Racine: You kind of plunging into the middle of lengthy two and a half year discussion.

8

00:00:37.980 --> 00:00:41.850

Carl Racine: So I hope it's not too confusing to you, but.

9

00:00:42.870 --> 00:00:49.650

Carl Racine: I think it will be clear, the specific topic that we're going to be talking about today.

10

00:00:51.600 --> 00:00:54.060

Carl Racine: we're continuing our discussion about today.

11

00:00:56.340 --> 00:01:02.400

Carl Racine: The second thing I want to say is that next week, we will not be having class.

12

00:01:05.370 --> 00:01:07.770

Carl Racine: I will be in New York City.

13

00:01:09.690 --> 00:01:15.240

Carl Racine: attending an episcopal church where.

14

00:01:16.800 --> 00:01:21.180

Carl Racine: susan's cousin's husband is one of the priests.

15

00:01:23.910 --> 00:01:27.210

Carl Racine: So I will not be able to.

16

00:01:28.830 --> 00:01:31.650

Carl Racine: To do class next week out i'll send out.

17

00:01:32.820 --> 00:01:39.690

Carl Racine: A reminder to everybody, but we will resume again in two weeks, which I think.

18

00:01:41.190 --> 00:01:42.210

Carl Racine: will be April.

19

00:01:44.250 --> 00:01:44.640

Carole Copeland Thomas: 2.

20

00:01:47.040 --> 00:01:48.060

Carl Racine: Third April 3.

21

00:01:49.710 --> 00:01:58.950

Carl Racine: So no class next week, unless you all want to just get together and have a conversation that would be perfectly fine with me if you did so it's up to you.

22

00:02:03.690 --> 00:02:06.300

Carl Racine: All right, I think we'll open in prayer and then.

23

00:02:07.620 --> 00:02:12.720

Carl Racine: I have one other thing to say that sort of connected to

what we're doing Lord God we bless you for.

24

00:02:13.950 --> 00:02:17.160

Carl Racine: This day we bless you for some sunshine we bless you for.

25

00:02:18.330 --> 00:02:20.640

Carl Racine: bringing us together once again.

26

00:02:22.290 --> 00:02:39.120

Carl Racine: To have conversation and meditation on the scriptures on our world and on your vision for our lives and we pray that you would guide our conversation and be with us in the name of Jesus amen amen.

27

00:02:42.120 --> 00:02:46.380

Carl Racine: After class last week Susan pointed out to me.

28

00:02:47.430 --> 00:02:55.470

Carl Racine: I quoted a verse from second Corinthians about god's promises finding their yes in Christ.

29

00:02:56.550 --> 00:02:57.360

Carl Racine: and

30

00:02:58.380 --> 00:03:04.320

Carl Racine: Susan had been was looking at that in context and said it comes kind of in the middle of.

31

00:03:05.430 --> 00:03:10.830

Carl Racine: puzzling intimate confusing discussion of paul's travel plans.

32

00:03:12.810 --> 00:03:16.350

Carl Racine: And wondered how that is connected.

33

00:03:17.970 --> 00:03:24.510

Carl Racine: And I thought about it for a moment and realize that really raises a very important.

34

00:03:25.710 --> 00:03:26.580

Carl Racine: issue.

35

00:03:28.290 --> 00:03:33.150

Carl Racine: In our understanding of the Apostle Paul that's relevant for this class.

36

00:03:35.550 --> 00:03:49.080

Carl Racine: And so I think in two weeks static will mostly finished up with what we're having with this topic today that we've been talking about and I think, then, in two weeks we'll take a slight detour and address.

37

00:03:51.120 --> 00:03:58.680

Carl Racine: The the very important issue, and certainly hidden story in the New Testament in the in the life of the Apostle Paul.

38

00:04:00.450 --> 00:04:12.720

Carl Racine: Because the the travel plans are just kind of alluded to there in the first chapter of second Corinthians and it doesn't really become clear until chapters, eight and nine, where Paul discusses at length.

39

00:04:13.800 --> 00:04:15.450

Carl Racine: What he's doing.

40

00:04:16.500 --> 00:04:24.030

Carl Racine: In traveling around to these various cities in both Asia Minor and what we now call Greece.

41

00:04:25.320 --> 00:04:36.000

Carl Racine: it's part of a much larger plan that paul's been working on for some time now he's talked about it before to the Corinthians in first Corinthians.

42

00:04:36.630 --> 00:04:47.610

Carl Racine: He will talk about it later when he writes to the Roman church, but you have to piece it together from some passages in paul's letters.

43

00:04:48.360 --> 00:05:05.520

Carl Racine: Because it's only briefly referred to in the book of

acts, so it doesn't get included in the kind of canonical story that we tell about the life and Ministry of the Apostle Paul, and yet it is very important to him, as you will see when we look at these passages.

44

00:05:06.630 --> 00:05:16.650

Carl Racine: Paul is traveling around to various churches that he and other people have established in the in the whole region and the larger Roman Empire.

45

00:05:19.410 --> 00:05:28.710

Carl Racine: Making a collection, among other things, taking up a collection of financial offering which he hopes to bring back to the Church.

46

00:05:29.940 --> 00:05:37.560

Carl Racine: That is in Jerusalem to the group of largely Jewish followers of Jesus.

47

00:05:38.820 --> 00:05:42.750

Carl Racine: Who seemed to always have been struggling economically.

48

00:05:44.430 --> 00:05:52.740

Carl Racine: And in bringing this financial gift from the largely Gentile churches that he's visiting.

49

00:05:53.910 --> 00:06:07.740

Carl Racine: In his travels and that he mentions in his travel plans, he hopes to kind of cement the relationship between the Jewish and the Gentile factions that.

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00:06:08.550 --> 00:06:27.630

Carl Racine: are growing within the larger church body, and he tells the in Romans he tells the gentiles he's writing to that they owe a spiritual debt to their Jewish brothers and sisters, and so they ought to also bless them material materially because.

51

00:06:28.620 --> 00:06:33.870

Carl Racine: The the ones in Jerusalem are are having some financial difficulties.

52

00:06:35.850 --> 00:06:45.330

Carl Racine: So if and I argued when I when when we were talking about the verse about the promises of God that Paul always has Israel story in mind.

53

00:06:45.690 --> 00:07:06.900

Carl Racine: And that, when he's talking about god's promises he's first and foremost talking about the promise to God in Abraham the promise of God to Abraham in genesis 12:12-13 when, God promises to bless Abraham to bless abraham's descendants, and to bless all those who who bless.

54

00:07:06.960 --> 00:07:09.120

Carl Racine: Abraham and his descendants.

55

00:07:09.720 --> 00:07:29.310

Carl Racine: So I think what Paul is doing with this offering is simply helping fulfill that promise that the gentiles will be blessed by their being a blessing to others, specifically to their Jewish brothers and sisters and so.

56

00:07:30.330 --> 00:07:44.520

Carl Racine: There is a connection in the back of paul's mind he doesn't make it very clear in that specific passage, but I think when we look at the other passages, where he talks about this offering more length and what it means to him.

57

00:07:45.930 --> 00:07:52.590

Carl Racine: We will, we will see something that's important not only for understanding Paul, but for understanding.

58

00:07:54.000 --> 00:08:11.910

Carl Racine: part of what this whole class is about, so I will have that for you in a couple of weeks and stay tuned and i'll send out in the in the in the letter about the email that class notes this week i'll send out passages for you to look at in the meantime.

59

00:08:13.110 --> 00:08:28.710

Carl Racine: Because they're usually passed over again, because when Paul starts talking about his travel plans our eyes glaze over and we quickly try to jump to something that actually matters to us, but this is actually a very interesting piece of the puzzle.

60

00:08:29.910 --> 00:08:30.480

Carl Racine: So.

61

00:08:32.340 --> 00:08:38.580

Carl Racine: Anyway, that's I think and then questions about that we'll talk about that more in a couple weeks.

62

00:08:44.580 --> 00:08:48.360

Carl Racine: Okay um we have been talking.

63

00:08:51.330 --> 00:08:52.230

Carl Racine: About.

64

00:08:55.200 --> 00:08:59.460

Carl Racine: What I personally feel is.

65

00:09:00.510 --> 00:09:01.170

Carl Racine: The.

66

00:09:02.760 --> 00:09:10.500

Carl Racine: Over emphasis in Christian thinking about on the afterlife.

67

00:09:10.740 --> 00:09:33.990

Carl Racine: On life after death to the detriment of a focus on this life and i've been arguing that in this whole course all along the Christians need to start with a firm grounding in the Old Testament in this Hebrew scriptures because without that we will never understand the New Testament.

68

00:09:35.820 --> 00:09:50.250

Carl Racine: And I think this is especially tues and Ivan is especially choose a corrective to this obsession that we have with the afterlife with life after death with thinking that that's what religion is all about is going to heaven when I die.

69

00:09:51.780 --> 00:09:53.040

Carl Racine: The Old Testament gives us a.

70

00:09:53.040 --> 00:09:55.380

Carl Racine: helpful and important balance.

71

00:09:55.500 --> 00:09:56.310

Carl Racine: In this.

72

00:09:57.630 --> 00:10:04.860

Carl Racine: And I made the point in the last couple of weeks that God had good reasons for delaying.

73

00:10:05.340 --> 00:10:23.820

Carl Racine: Reviewing the whole idea of resurrection and the afterlife which is pretty much completely absent from the Old Testament so that the people of God, would be strongly rooted in a concern for this life, and I want to make the same point about the hope for a Messiah.

74

00:10:26.220 --> 00:10:52.620

Carl Racine: Because, contrary to what most Christians think the hope from Messiah is not central to the Old Testament and the word Messiah itself is only used in the Old Testament to refer to existing human leaders even pagan ones like cyrus the Persian King whom God uses for specific purposes.

75

00:10:53.790 --> 00:10:58.980

Carl Racine: Now the old the word Messiah as as a as a kind of.

76

00:11:01.320 --> 00:11:18.510

Carl Racine: You know, heir of david's throne, who will common liberate the Jewish people that hope only really grows up in between the Old and New Testament times in the in the couple hundred years before the time of Jesus.

77

00:11:19.620 --> 00:11:30.090

Carl Racine: Now the Old Testament does contain prophecies and hope for a coming ruler, who will embody god's Shalom god's.

78

00:11:30.750 --> 00:11:40.110

Carl Racine: peace and well being god's way of life and will embody god's faithfulness but that person is never called the Messiah.

79

00:11:40.980 --> 00:11:53.130

Carl Racine: So the idea that everyone in Jesus day when we read the New Testament read the Gospels idea that everyone in Jesus day was looking for the Messiah is wrong, many Jews had no such expectation.

80

00:11:54.150 --> 00:11:58.770

Carl Racine: And some like the sad gypsies were quite comfortable with the status quo.

81

00:12:00.300 --> 00:12:09.870

Carl Racine: And the Jews who were looking for some sort of deliverance had a large number of different ideas about what that would look like.

82

00:12:10.380 --> 00:12:25.680

Carl Racine: And whether it would come through human agency, like a Messiah or whether it would come through direct divine action God just doing it without the aid of human or human leader.

83

00:12:26.970 --> 00:12:31.950

Carl Racine: So the wide variety of opinions about a messianic figure.

84

00:12:33.150 --> 00:12:46.320

Carl Racine: show up in some of the Inter TESTA mental literature, including the what we call the Dead Sea scrolls which were produced by Community living.

85

00:12:48.900 --> 00:12:53.370

Carl Racine: About 100 hundred and 50 years before the time of Jesus.

86

00:12:55.980 --> 00:13:04.650

Carl Racine: And that Community that had left Judea to go live out in the wilderness to go live out by the Dead Sea.

87

00:13:05.760 --> 00:13:16.230

Carl Racine: Actually, in their literature, they look for the coming of two Messiahs one a Priestly leader and one a kingly ruler because.

88

00:13:18.690 --> 00:13:24.690

Carl Racine: The Bible tends to separate church and state.

89

00:13:25.740 --> 00:13:37.890

Carl Racine: And envision even in his equals prophecy of the future, what the future will be like after exile is over and visions, a pretty strict separation between the King and the priest.

90

00:13:39.180 --> 00:13:56.520

Carl Racine: And so, because there are passages that suggests that God is going to send a Priestly type figure and then passes to suggest a kingly type figure this Community decided this is going to be two separate Messiahs.

91

00:13:57.660 --> 00:14:15.930

Carl Racine: So over the years i've repeatedly heard and sermons and Bible studies, the idea that all Jews are waiting for a military Messiah who would overthrow the Roman government and so that's why they didn't recognize that Jesus was really a spiritual Messiah who had no such interest.

92

00:14:17.310 --> 00:14:27.720

Carl Racine: Neither part of that statement is true, it reflects in ignorance of first century Jewish beliefs and the tendency to create negative stereotypes of all Jews.

93

00:14:28.500 --> 00:14:42.540

Carl Racine: And it comes from the Christian tendency to spiritual eyes biblical teaching and ignore the radical down to earth political nature of Jesus teaching that was indeed a threat to the Roman Empire and for which he was crucified.

94

00:14:44.490 --> 00:14:45.090

Carl Racine: So.

95

00:14:46.500 --> 00:15:01.350

Carl Racine: Just as i've been arguing that there's a danger in the belief in an afterlife so there's also a danger in this hope for the coming of the Messiah and i've got a number of quotes here about this if we could see slide number 16 please.

96

00:16:04.230 --> 00:16:04.830

Carl Racine: um.

97

00:16:06.210 --> 00:16:07.350

Carl Racine: rabbi sacks.

98

00:16:08.490 --> 00:16:22.500

Carl Racine: says that for centuries Jews were suspended between a remote miraculous past the biblical era and then equally remote miraculous future the messianic age.

99

00:16:24.120 --> 00:16:38.040

Carl Racine: And, as a result, he says, the present day is devalued and people live in a state of spiritual suspended animation and I would argue that the same as often true for Christians.

100

00:16:39.120 --> 00:16:47.190

Carl Racine: We saw we were talking about the afterlife that the Old Testament steadfastly refuses.

101

00:16:48.120 --> 00:17:09.570

Carl Racine: To comfort people who are suffering in this life, with the hope for a better life, and this is particularly true in the really brutal book of lamentations which sort of relentlessly recounts the horrific devastation that God has inflicted on Jerusalem and the judean.

102

00:17:10.800 --> 00:17:17.160

Carl Racine: it's a it's a heart wrenching book where mothers are having to eat their children.

103

00:17:18.810 --> 00:17:25.560

Carl Racine: As a result of the siege that the babylonians had placed on the city of Jerusalem.

104

00:17:26.190 --> 00:17:35.280

Carl Racine: And it goes on and on and on about this, and there are only a couple of verses right in the middle, that have a kind of brief glimpse.

105

00:17:35.880 --> 00:17:42.090

Carl Racine: of an idea that God might somehow have some compassion on the Judy ends in the future.

106

00:17:42.720 --> 00:17:48.660

Carl Racine: And, of course, those are the only two verses from lamentations that you ever actually hear read in the Church.

107

00:17:49.170 --> 00:17:54.540

Carl Racine: But the are those are kind of right in the middle and the author quickly returns to the present.

108

00:17:55.290 --> 00:18:05.610

Carl Racine: And complains at the end with the that God has been angry with us beyond measure that's how the book ends.

109

00:18:05.910 --> 00:18:17.910

Carl Racine: That the brutal punishment, they have received for their sins is far out of proportion to the wrongs that they have done and it's simply ends with a big question mark why.

110

00:18:18.420 --> 00:18:31.080

Carl Racine: it's a very bleak vision and it only takes on more of a sharp edge and a perplexing depth when read in the context of what Jews have suffered in recent history.

111

00:18:33.210 --> 00:18:37.350

Carl Racine: Now, Professor yeah Ziegler.

112

00:18:39.780 --> 00:18:46.290

Carl Racine: who wrote a really extensive recent commentary on the Book of lamentations that's really good.

113

00:18:47.850 --> 00:18:52.800

Carl Racine: points out that, because of the kind of bleak nature of the book.

114

00:18:53.610 --> 00:19:02.970

Carl Racine: Later rabbinic medress demonic interpretations of the book of lamentation try to mitigate a little bit the dismal nature of the book by.

115

00:19:03.330 --> 00:19:12.270

Carl Racine: Somewhat hesitantly bringing up the hope for deliverance through the Messiah This is how the problems are going to be solved, which is nowhere mentioned in the book.

116

00:19:13.200 --> 00:19:22.860

Carl Racine: But Professor Ziegler says that the MID rash quote maintains a prudent resistance to focusing on a messianic future.

117

00:19:23.520 --> 00:19:31.890

Carl Racine: messianism is often rooted in a negative attitude towards the present, which results in an undue focus on the future.

118

00:19:32.880 --> 00:19:47.730

Carl Racine: So she says the medress does recognize the hope for a Messiah and for some sort of deliverance but even the medress itself wants to focus primarily on the present reality and not encourage the nation to get lost in future dreams.

119

00:19:48.330 --> 00:20:02.430

Carl Racine: And I think Judaism has been rightly skeptical about speculation about the future and about spending much time focusing on this idea, the idea, you see, on your screen i've alarm how bother the world to come.

120

00:20:04.650 --> 00:20:24.840

Carl Racine: first century rabbi from the time of Jesus rabbi yohannan bends a Chi is remembered for a famous saying, if you are holding a sapling in your hand and someone tells you the Messiah is coming first finished planting the tree and then go greet the Messiah.

121

00:20:26.460 --> 00:20:32.580

Carl Racine: So Judaism, is not a religion about future salvation even though that's included in their teaching.

122

00:20:33.150 --> 00:20:48.600

Carl Racine: It is a matter of emphasis here that i'm talking about that this life is what really matters as opposed to the next and repeatedly I run into Jewish authors saying that sort of thing but it's extremely rare to find in Christian authors.

123

00:20:50.580 --> 00:21:00.750

Carl Racine: So in my limited reading of the rabbinic literature and i'm no longer no don't claim to be an expert, although i've read a fair amount in the last few years.

124

00:21:01.230 --> 00:21:07.560

Carl Racine: But my limited reading of the rabbinic literature my sense of things is that when they speak about alarm hub, the world to come.

125

00:21:08.100 --> 00:21:27.360

Carl Racine: They are doing so not so much to impart specific information about what the future might be like they recognize its speculative but rather to tell their listeners something about the present about how to live their lives, now, in other words, go plant, the tree.

126

00:21:28.410 --> 00:21:35.010

Carl Racine: The coming world of justice and Shalom should be a model for us in this world.

127

00:21:36.150 --> 00:21:49.890

Carl Racine: So let me give you an example of this that I just found fairly recently the Talmud relates, and I don't have a slide for this, the Talmud relates a story of a rabbi yosef who became very ill and was on his deathbed.

128

00:21:50.880 --> 00:22:13.680

Carl Racine: But he miraculously recovered and so his father asked him if he'd seen anything as he was approaching death if he'd seen anything of the world to come and rabbi yosef said I saw an inverted world those above are below while those below are above.

129

00:22:15.840 --> 00:22:22.140

Carl Racine: and his father replies to this my son, you have seen a clear world.

130

00:22:24.510 --> 00:22:38.760

Carl Racine: Now this, of course, was a central teaching of Jesus about the world to come about what Jesus called the Kingdom of God, where the last shall be first and the first last for those who are insignificant in the eyes of this world will be given a place of honor and the next.

131

00:22:40.380 --> 00:22:51.060

Carl Racine: What I want to argue here is that both in the Gospels and in the Talmud these sayings are not simply there to satisfy idle

curiosity about the future.

132

00:22:51.900 --> 00:22:58.560

Carl Racine: they're there to tell us we are living in a topsy turvy world where the values of this world are screwed up.

133

00:22:59.040 --> 00:23:18.780

Carl Racine: They are there to help us see this world clearly to see things from god's perspective to acquire a true vision of how this world is supposed to be Jesus and the ancient rabbis both wanted their disciples to adopt this future vision now.

134

00:23:21.690 --> 00:23:23.160

Carl Racine: Comments questions.

135

00:23:25.500 --> 00:23:26.370

Bill Hughes: So.

136

00:23:27.750 --> 00:23:28.980

Carole Copeland Thomas: Go ahead brother bill.

137

00:23:30.450 --> 00:23:34.920

Bill Hughes: Carl so there's one scripture that keeps coming up when you when you talk about this.

138

00:23:36.540 --> 00:23:41.940

Bill Hughes: And one thought that I had when you were describing is one of the quotes that.

139

00:23:43.620 --> 00:23:53.220

Bill Hughes: The one in the middle messianic messianism is often written negative attitude towards the President with which results in an undue focus on the future there's an aspect of that.

140

00:23:55.020 --> 00:23:57.930

Bill Hughes: To be honest with myself in terms of.

141

00:23:59.040 --> 00:24:15.120

Bill Hughes: How i've kind of internalized these things over the years is that people who struggle with looking at the future um you know

suffer from a humanism that keeps them from.

142

00:24:17.670 --> 00:24:18.360

Bill Hughes: From.

143

00:24:19.980 --> 00:24:29.340

Bill Hughes: from seeing from seeing God in you know and really kind of hyper focus on on the material world in one way or another.

144

00:24:29.880 --> 00:24:46.410

Bill Hughes: that's maybe a wrongheaded view but that's kind of something that's that kind of deep inside of me that I have to sort through and the scripture that reinforces that belief is first john Chapter three verses three and two and three, it says, dear friends.

145

00:24:47.520 --> 00:24:54.780

Bill Hughes: We are now the children of God, and what we believe will be made known, but when we when Christ appears we'll see him.

146

00:24:56.280 --> 00:25:10.350

Bill Hughes: will be like him for we'll see him as he is and and verse three all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure so to me there's something about the looking forward.

147

00:25:13.860 --> 00:25:24.870

Bill Hughes: To two to Jesus, and maybe that's wrapped up in heaven and whatever that has to do with the purification of the soul, I was wondering if you could speak to that in this context.

148

00:25:26.460 --> 00:25:29.790

Carl Racine: But but anyway, what john is saying there is is.

149

00:25:33.090 --> 00:25:53.670

Carl Racine: This should shape how we are now that we should be more and more conformed to the image of Christ as Paul says in Romans eight that that is that is god's goal for us to be Christ like, but if that goal is, is only a sort of future hope.

150

00:25:54.750 --> 00:25:58.890

Carl Racine: Then just shoot me now because you know he'll get it sooner.

151

00:26:00.810 --> 00:26:08.460

Bill Hughes: So you're saying looking heavenward is not what the problem is it's it's ignoring the earthly.

152

00:26:10.230 --> 00:26:13.200

Bill Hughes: implications of looking at work, exactly that.

153

00:26:14.460 --> 00:26:18.960

Carl Racine: And i'm going to go on to talk about this a little more, but that that looking.

154

00:26:20.130 --> 00:26:31.320

Carl Racine: The talk about the future about the world to come, is all a way of helping us think more clearly about this world.

155

00:26:32.040 --> 00:26:47.730

Carl Racine: That we judge this world and how we act in this world, and how this world acts on the basis of that future vision, rather than simply getting kind of wrapped up in all of that, and I think Christians have gotten too wrapped up in a lot of speculation.

156

00:26:49.350 --> 00:26:55.440

Carl Racine: That has diverted their energies and their focus away from where it should be.

157

00:26:57.390 --> 00:26:58.230

Carole Copeland Thomas: So I.

158

00:26:58.530 --> 00:27:02.550

Carole Copeland Thomas: I just wanted to ask brother Carl so that this helps to clarify.

159

00:27:02.970 --> 00:27:17.400

Carole Copeland Thomas: you're not saying that there's not heaven or hell if i'm hearing you correctly in the scriptures that you're pulling up you're saying that the emphasis should be on the now here on earth versus.

160

00:27:18.240 --> 00:27:26.460

Carole Copeland Thomas: Focusing your energies totally toward the future afterlife heaven or hell predicament Is that correct.

161

00:27:26.970 --> 00:27:28.620

Carole Copeland Thomas: Exactly okay all right.

162

00:27:29.250 --> 00:27:32.460

James Williams: All I can say it is a blasphemy blasphemy.

163

00:27:34.830 --> 00:27:48.150

James Williams: You know it's so many churches that i've been around and involved in, I mean they just focus on on these New Testament things about getting glory and the bio bio remember pastor him and used to be on.

164

00:27:49.560 --> 00:27:57.300

James Williams: a tangent where we focus so much on the by, and by what happens afterwards is supposed to this year and now.

165

00:27:58.470 --> 00:27:59.700

James Williams: I just love, how you.

166

00:28:01.650 --> 00:28:02.940

James Williams: You attack the.

167

00:28:04.110 --> 00:28:09.000

James Williams: What is it the standards that some of us have been taught.

168

00:28:10.170 --> 00:28:11.940

Carl Racine: Right, I mean this is stuff I grew up with.

169

00:28:12.120 --> 00:28:29.670

Carl Racine: I remember, I know we're kind of doing week by week and there's little pieces of this larger thing every week, but I started this particular section with that example from the Governor of Mississippi who, in August of 2020.

170

00:28:30.900 --> 00:28:46.860

Carl Racine: And when Kobe was raging, and there were no vaccines and

and all and he said, people in Mississippi and and you know I think he was thinking specifically about.

171

00:28:48.420 --> 00:28:48.990

Carl Racine: The what we.

172

00:28:49.020 --> 00:28:56.490

Carl Racine: sort of think of as the Bible belt aren't as worried about coven and dying because they believe in eternal life.

173

00:28:58.410 --> 00:29:16.560

Carl Racine: And he was using that as a kind of justification for not taking any legal steps to impose coven restrictions on his state, which resulted in the highest death rate of any state in the nation from coven because of that.

174

00:29:17.250 --> 00:29:34.440

Carl Racine: So if his belief in eternal life in his belief in heaven or the world to come, or what However, you want to talk about it leads him to creating a death state there's something fundamentally wrong with his theology.

175

00:29:35.100 --> 00:29:55.830

Carl Racine: Yes, and i'm arguing that that way too often has been the case in Christian circles that the separation between the world to come and this world meant that you can act horribly in this world, as long as you're sure that in the next World you'll be okay.

176

00:30:00.690 --> 00:30:13.740

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, you know, the President of you of Tanzania also took a similar route he's dead now probably have coven but really delayed the.

177

00:30:14.460 --> 00:30:28.560

Carole Copeland Thomas: opportunity for his people in his country to to be tested and, ultimately, you know getting vaccine preparations in place, because he had that this guy had a PhD I think in chemistry.

178

00:30:29.160 --> 00:30:36.870

Carole Copeland Thomas: Well, he just was way off the deep end with saying we don't need this, you know God will take care of us and.

179

00:30:37.740 --> 00:30:52.650

Carole Copeland Thomas: They never said that he died of coville i'm speculating just because of the circumstances and the fact that he was ill for quite some time before he suddenly passed away this was back in I think march of 2021 around that time.

180

00:30:54.030 --> 00:30:56.040

Carole Copeland Thomas: But same same kind of ideology.

181

00:30:57.960 --> 00:30:58.620

Can I speak.

182

00:31:01.080 --> 00:31:02.550

Carl Racine: Go anyone can talk.

183

00:31:03.060 --> 00:31:18.720

Marie Doubleday: On the route um so it's interesting listening to call and I did read your notes from this morning and that from last week and I wasn't here last week that was extremely helpful because this whole thing has put me in meltdown.

184

00:31:19.440 --> 00:31:29.880

Marie Doubleday: Okay, no really and it's not about being you know some of the your reasoning is not my reasoning which is fine it's not but it's interesting listening to you.

185

00:31:30.540 --> 00:31:50.460

Marie Doubleday: And i'm you know, obviously i'm a European, American but i've been involved with the amy church for since i've been 20 doesn't make me the expert, but in looking at the history of the black church and looking at what I am understanding of the.

186

00:31:51.600 --> 00:31:59.400

Marie Doubleday: African American the leaf from slavery onward is that I think the.

187

00:32:00.510 --> 00:32:06.420

Marie Doubleday: church has enabled a light at the end of the tunnel.

188

00:32:08.130 --> 00:32:10.440

Marie Doubleday: You know, and I think.

189

00:32:11.700 --> 00:32:19.170

Marie Doubleday: it's interesting because all right now i'm going to get this is i'm not serious about this right, but.

190

00:32:19.590 --> 00:32:21.540

Marie Doubleday: I have developed three house.

191

00:32:22.440 --> 00:32:28.320

Marie Doubleday: All right, y'all can laugh because i'm not really serious this the Boston Irish catholic how, which is very high.

192

00:32:29.250 --> 00:32:46.530

Marie Doubleday: Then there's the tire Sicilian American how, which is not so hot because they go through the not then covering the bus and mother with dollar bills all right, and then as amy how which I considered not really hot and then brother calm comes along it's not audit all.

193

00:32:47.670 --> 00:33:05.970

Marie Doubleday: But, but I think that's connected to the white at the end of the tunnel and now, this is where i'm pulling in I think call as i'm understanding you the understood the piece of the here and now.

194

00:33:06.570 --> 00:33:16.470

Marie Doubleday: on earth, you know is that going back to the black church, I mean you know is that there is going to be.

195

00:33:17.010 --> 00:33:27.180

Marie Doubleday: Hopefully, for some people away at the end of the tunnel Harriet tubman had to have seen a light at the end of the tunnel for the for what she was doing.

196

00:33:28.140 --> 00:33:41.700

Marie Doubleday: Okay, and and the the I mean it just the the history is deep and profound so it kind of goes back to what is happening, the tuskegee airmen.

197

00:33:42.480 --> 00:33:56.490

Marie Doubleday: Another example okay my brother who was my half

brother for World War Two when he passed away my nephew who's just a younger than me told me that when billy saw the red tail you know we were safe.

198

00:33:57.930 --> 00:34:07.050

Marie Doubleday: So a light and is that connected religiously it could well be I don't know billy was praying at that so am I, making sense.

199

00:34:08.370 --> 00:34:18.120

Carl Racine: yeah and you know I said at the outset that that this hope, the hope for the resurrection and all of that has served.

200

00:34:20.130 --> 00:34:30.720

Carl Racine: To to give hope to communities facing persecution, we see this in the story of the maccabees in the inner TESTA mental literature.

201

00:34:31.800 --> 00:34:44.610

Carl Racine: Where it where the hope for resurrection is first clearly stated and it stated in the context of brutal persecution by the by Antichrist epiphanies of the Jews.

202

00:34:46.020 --> 00:34:46.680

Carl Racine: and

203

00:34:47.730 --> 00:34:59.580

Carl Racine: It certainly gave hope to early Christians who were facing persecution from the Roman Empire and it's given hope to other peoples, but what I am arguing here is simply a matter of emphasis.

204

00:35:00.570 --> 00:35:00.990

That.

205

00:35:03.000 --> 00:35:10.680

Carl Racine: As as brother James commented and and certainly in my own experience it has tended to be.

206

00:35:11.400 --> 00:35:18.810

Carl Racine: The Center of our understanding of what religion is all about, rather than just one important aspect of it.

207

00:35:19.230 --> 00:35:27.120

Carl Racine: So that when I again every time i've ever had a Bible study or class or whatever, where i've pointed out to people.

208

00:35:28.050 --> 00:35:36.450

Carl Racine: that none of the Old Testament saints Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and Rebecca and Rachel and Leah and Sarah.

209

00:35:37.290 --> 00:35:51.030

Carl Racine: and David and go on and on, none of them were faithful to God, none of them had any belief in an afterlife, and yet they were faithful to God that wasn't the Center of their belief that wasn't that wasn't their motivating.

210

00:35:52.830 --> 00:35:59.940

Carl Racine: factor as part of their faith and that just puzzles most people they can't get their heads around that because it can't imagine.

211

00:36:00.270 --> 00:36:14.130

Carl Racine: Having a religious system that doesn't have a sense of the afterlife because that's sort of what it's about and I, and I actually have a great quote here that I was going to maybe i'll just go on with this and then we can talk some more in an interview.

212

00:36:15.360 --> 00:36:25.650

Carl Racine: rabbi hassle Abraham joshua heschel was asked why he never writes about the afterlife seen as so many religions are so focused on this idea and his response was fascinating.

213

00:36:26.400 --> 00:36:39.960

Carl Racine: He says we believe in an afterlife, but we have no information about it, I think that's god's business what to do with me after life here it's my business what to do with my life.

214

00:36:40.380 --> 00:36:52.140

Carl Racine: So I leave it to God i'm so busy trying to live a good life and don't always succeed that I have no time to worry about what god's going to do with me once i'm in the grave.

215

00:36:52.740 --> 00:37:01.890

Carl Racine: I don't have a slide for this either, say, I have no time to worry about what god's gonna do for me once i'm in the grave who knows what God expects of me in the grave.

216

00:37:03.960 --> 00:37:15.090

Carl Racine: And I think that's a very sane perspective on things, focusing on this life is the major emphasis in Jesus ministry and teaching and Jesus.

217

00:37:15.390 --> 00:37:29.280

Carl Racine: Again, you see, on your screen here Jesus discourages his disciples from too much speculation about the future, he says no one, not even the sun himself knows about the future.

218

00:37:29.790 --> 00:37:41.940

Carl Racine: knows all the details, and he tells them very clearly there and X one seven that's not for you to know or worry about as heschel says that's god's business.

219

00:37:42.930 --> 00:37:56.400

Carl Racine: Now, in acts one, and this is, after the resurrection the disciples question that prompts what Jesus response here the disciples question is very crucial.

220

00:37:56.940 --> 00:38:08.190

Carl Racine: Is this the time you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel that's an expression of the ancient biblical hope connected to the idea of the Messiah.

221

00:38:09.720 --> 00:38:22.350

Carl Racine: That Jesus doesn't respond by saying no you've all misunderstood, things have changed now God, no longer intends to keep the promises made to our ancestors God is only interested in a spiritual kingdom.

222

00:38:23.340 --> 00:38:29.880

Carl Racine: Jesus says nothing like that, even though most Christians have understood that to be.

223

00:38:31.470 --> 00:38:38.220

Carl Racine: what's going on Jesus replied to them confirms that their hope will be.

224

00:38:38.790 --> 00:38:53.550

Carl Racine: realized that the Kingdom will be restored to Israel simply the timing of it isn't for them to know it's only that point in time when it will take place that remains unknown and that they shouldn't worry about.

225

00:38:54.150 --> 00:39:03.960

Carl Racine: don't concern yourself about what will happen in the future rather Jesus says get on with the responsibilities, I have given you in this world now.

226

00:39:05.490 --> 00:39:16.260

Carl Racine: And I want to argue that the same perspective is true for the biblical method material, we think about as futuristic prophecy like the Book of Daniel or the Book of Revelation.

227

00:39:17.790 --> 00:39:27.090

Carl Racine: If the purpose of those books was simply to inform people about something that would take place thousands of years later, which is how most Christians understand them.

228

00:39:27.660 --> 00:39:42.060

Carl Racine: They were completely useless to their readers they would have made zero sense to their readers What would the point, be of even having such a book in your possession if it's all about something that's happening several millennia from that.

229

00:39:43.320 --> 00:39:52.020

Carl Racine: The Book of Revelation opens by declaring that it is a vision of what must soon take place Chapter one verse one.

230

00:39:53.400 --> 00:40:05.730

Carl Racine: What must soon take place not 2000 years later, whatever future orientation, it might have biblical prophecy is always about what is happening now.

231

00:40:06.210 --> 00:40:12.810

Carl Racine: And it's descriptions of the future life are there to tell us something about how we should be living in this life.

232

00:40:13.500 --> 00:40:24.270

Carl Racine: and Christians, I think, have gotten way off track trying to use these books to construct precise timelines of how the world will end and most of you have seen these in your.

233

00:40:24.960 --> 00:40:29.280

Carl Racine: In your experience when I was in college and we're talking about.

234

00:40:31.980 --> 00:40:33.030

Carl Racine: One ish.

235

00:40:34.260 --> 00:40:40.830

Carl Racine: Many people were completely taken with and ultimately taken in by a book called the late, great Planet Earth.

236

00:40:42.090 --> 00:40:52.710

Carl Racine: That purported to know just when Jesus was going to return based on jumbling together a bunch of different Bible passages alongside headlines from the newspaper.

237

00:40:53.640 --> 00:41:02.730

Carl Racine: Supposedly in this theory which took hold of the church and which still has a stranglehold on some a lot of churches supposedly this theory.

238

00:41:03.180 --> 00:41:14.010

Carl Racine: comes up with the idea that the that the founding of the State of Israel in 1948 had set into motion a timetable of events that would culminate in Jesus return.

239

00:41:14.460 --> 00:41:23.310

Carl Racine: So we've been kind of treading water for 2000 years and then now, we finally get to where the biblical prophecy has something to say to us.

240

00:41:24.120 --> 00:41:31.710

Carl Racine: And they quote Jesus in Matthew 24 saying this generation will not pass until all these things will be fulfilled.

241

00:41:32.370 --> 00:41:45.930

Carl Racine: And they calculated at the time that a generation would be 30 years, which is probably about right that meant that by 1978, the world was going to end and Jesus was going to return.

242

00:41:47.610 --> 00:41:54.750

Carl Racine: So in 1971 or 72 when we were reading this lots of people got all excited oh boy.

243

00:41:56.670 --> 00:42:07.050

Carl Racine: They failed to see the Jesus words, there were not to be understood, is actually directed to his first century disciples but rather to us 2000 years later, and many.

244

00:42:07.350 --> 00:42:22.890

Carl Racine: Millions of people were convinced by this, it became part of mainstream evangelical Christian belief, and of course they've had to revise their charts and their timelines and the mayor play a major players in this fantasy many times since.

245

00:42:24.180 --> 00:42:35.490

Carl Racine: But it still is out there as a kind of giant prophetic conspiracy theory that can be contorted to fit almost any set of circumstances I guarantee you, you can go on YouTube right now.

246

00:42:35.700 --> 00:42:43.290

Carl Racine: and find preachers who believe this foolishness making a new adjustment to it in lights, in light of the events in the Ukraine.

247

00:42:44.940 --> 00:42:52.470

Carl Racine: back when I was in college, it was Egypt and NASA who we're going to be the big Daddy that we're going to overthrow.

248

00:42:53.910 --> 00:42:56.250

Carl Racine: Israel and start World War three.

249

00:42:57.780 --> 00:43:04.440

Carl Racine: And then that didn't happen, and so you just go on and on and on, with all of this stuff wasting.

250

00:43:05.370 --> 00:43:17.460

Carl Racine: tremendous amount of time and energy and confusing people

and leading them astray at the time, I simply thought it was a ridiculous way of using scripture but more and more i've been convinced that it's also dangerous.

251

00:43:17.790 --> 00:43:25.410

Carl Racine: It uses the Bible for purposes for which it was not intended it's claims make a laughingstock of Christians, for the rest of the world.

252

00:43:25.830 --> 00:43:41.400

Carl Racine: Because if you ask the wrong questions of the Bible you'll get all sorts of crazy answers and, most importantly, and this is my main point here it's a complete distraction from what the church should be focusing on what Jesus told his disciples to focus on.

253

00:43:42.570 --> 00:43:52.500

Carl Racine: i've actually heard people celebrating the fact that things seem to be getting worse and worse in our world because it's a sign that the Messiah is coming soon.

254

00:43:53.730 --> 00:44:03.630

Carl Racine: So we can just sit back ignore all those problems like coven and wait for God to rescue us to rapture us out of this mess and leave it for others to deal with.

255

00:44:04.440 --> 00:44:17.280

Carl Racine: And that, to my mind, is why i'm doing this whole section there's something fundamentally wrong with that sort of thinking comments questions.

256

00:44:18.180 --> 00:44:31.710

Val: yeah I have a comment on good morning um I, I understand, and I agree that we as Christians should be or everyone should be focusing on serving others.

257

00:44:32.160 --> 00:44:40.740

Val: And and loving our brothers and sisters here on earth, however, I think, as a Christian I think about heaven and the afterlife.

258

00:44:41.310 --> 00:44:53.670

Val: Because, or sometimes I think about well, maybe Abraham Isaac Jacob or Moses and and folks back then didn't talk about the afterlife

is because they had that.

259

00:44:54.240 --> 00:44:58.440

Val: Beautiful blessing of having the presence of God that they can talk with.

260

00:44:59.310 --> 00:45:11.160

Val: That they can be with like Moses, with the gods cloud over the tabernacle or walking with them ahead of them on their path like they have that direct link or that physical.

261

00:45:11.820 --> 00:45:20.220

Val: essence of God, as, like, for me, as a Christian now yes God dwells in all of our hearts, but it's so different from knowing that.

262

00:45:20.550 --> 00:45:29.610

Val: You know I can talk to God directly and I can hear him respond or having a cloud traveling with me like seeing it visually, so I think that's why for me.

263

00:45:29.850 --> 00:45:35.670

Val: I feel like I think about there has to be a better life, even though we should do good and do the best and treat.

264

00:45:36.060 --> 00:45:42.840

Val: treat earth, as if it is heaven but knowing and having that peace and hope that there is something even better to come.

265

00:45:43.350 --> 00:45:52.050

Val: But I just feel like maybe the folks back then didn't think about the afterlife because they had that having right there that guy right there with them every step of the way.

266

00:45:54.540 --> 00:45:54.960

Carl Racine: yeah I mean.

267

00:45:55.980 --> 00:46:04.350

Carl Racine: Again, this is where I revert back to this quote from rabbi sacks assign your screen screen that I think is true of Christians as well.

268

00:46:04.710 --> 00:46:18.330

Carl Racine: For centuries, Jews were suspended between a remote miraculous past the biblical here and equally remote miraculous future and it, it leaves you in this data Center animation but what are we, one of the main.

269

00:46:20.610 --> 00:46:32.580

Carl Racine: principles in Torah that we have been talking about one of the fundamental principles that we need to base our thinking about this world on is the the verse in.

270

00:46:33.780 --> 00:46:38.460

Carl Racine: genesis one that says, all of us are created in god's image.

271

00:46:39.750 --> 00:47:04.290

Carl Racine: So you can look around and have a converse you can see, God and other people and have a conversation with God that way, apart from praying to God to our heavenly Father you also have direct connection to God through other people, and we, we simply don't really believe that.

272

00:47:06.030 --> 00:47:09.210

Carl Racine: But it's, to my mind it's one of the main.

273

00:47:10.290 --> 00:47:13.860

Carl Racine: biblical principles that has been kind of overlooked.

274

00:47:15.150 --> 00:47:21.090

Carl Racine: So, yes in in one sense, I understand what you're saying, but in another sense.

275

00:47:24.630 --> 00:47:28.020

Carl Racine: It as i'm as i'm arguing, it can be a distraction.

276

00:47:28.860 --> 00:47:37.050

Carole Copeland Thomas: So brother Carl how are you hearing this been twisted into the current Ukraine tragedy.

277

00:47:37.860 --> 00:47:51.150

Carl Racine: I haven't I don't look at those things at all i'm just saying, if you wanted to you could find because the the all of that whole theory thinking about the future.

278

00:47:54.870 --> 00:48:02.910

Carl Racine: sister Marie brought up Armageddon you know, these people are secretly hoping that somebody is going to start World War three because that would be good.

279

00:48:04.080 --> 00:48:22.050

Carl Racine: That would lead to the rapture and to Christians being taken out of the mess So whoever the current bad guy is in the world is kind of secretly doing god's work and and you can kind of cheer him on or her on.

280

00:48:23.460 --> 00:48:25.080

Carole Copeland Thomas: I see the template Thank you.

281

00:48:25.170 --> 00:48:35.160

Carl Racine: i'm assuming I have no idea I am assuming, and I am 100% certain of this even though I haven't looked at any of it, I am assuming, you can go on YouTube.

282

00:48:35.460 --> 00:48:49.230

Carl Racine: and find all sorts of videos of preachers prophetic preachers talking about how the Ukraine situation fits into this whole thing because it's it's like I said it's like a conspiracy theory, it can be adjusted to circumstances.

283

00:48:49.830 --> 00:48:59.100

Carl Racine: it's malleable it's it's it's elastic enough to fit whatever circumstances and and take them under its wing.

284

00:49:00.720 --> 00:49:07.500

Carl Racine: sister Kathy says remember Y2K right, the world is going to end 20 years ago right you get that sort of.

285

00:49:07.500 --> 00:49:11.070

Carole Copeland Thomas: thing a lot about that, over and over and over and over again, I have a.

286

00:49:11.520 --> 00:49:14.460

Carl Racine: I have a flyer that somewhere I got.

287

00:49:16.470 --> 00:49:26.760

Carl Racine: A long time ago, in that I keep in my Bible, just as a reminder of this that says a strong likelihood that October 7 2015 will be the end of the world.

288

00:49:28.650 --> 00:49:30.180

Carl Racine: And it has this long.

289

00:49:31.590 --> 00:49:45.630

Carl Racine: You know it's as long thing explaining this whole complicated theory based on Bible verses and other things, of how October 7 2015 the world's going to end.

290

00:49:46.770 --> 00:49:56.040

Carl Racine: Well, somebody wasted a lot of time and energy on that and a whole lot of other people did to when they should have been out there as pastor said this morning, serving other people.

291

00:49:57.300 --> 00:49:57.540

Marie Doubleday: well.

292

00:49:59.520 --> 00:50:00.780

James Williams: I remember once, when I was.

293

00:50:02.670 --> 00:50:05.820

James Williams: Because I came to be a Christian late in life I was in my yeah well.

294

00:50:06.600 --> 00:50:15.930

James Williams: later than most, I guess, in my 30s and I remember commenting to pass to him about what it must have been like you know to be in the presence of Jesus.

295

00:50:16.500 --> 00:50:27.060

James Williams: And, and he kind of stopped me there and and asked me about well, do you not believe that you can be in the presence of Jesus right now.

296

00:50:27.630 --> 00:50:37.200

James Williams: And, of course, when he said that i've just kind of wondered and kind of thought about it, but since then i've gone through a number of events in my life and there's no question in my mind.

297

00:50:38.070 --> 00:50:55.500

James Williams: That he is there, or God is there and and speaking to me guiding me and and hearing his voice so you know, in terms of the miraculous experiences that they had the Old Testament I think we have those miraculous experiences today to.

298

00:50:58.350 --> 00:51:03.540

Carole Copeland Thomas: US yes sister me see brother bill, I think your next and then sister Carol and then sister Susan.

299

00:51:04.950 --> 00:51:14.100

Bill Hughes: I appreciate you sharing that James because I do, I do agree with you that you know I think people walking around when Jesus was walking around.

300

00:51:14.550 --> 00:51:26.820

Bill Hughes: There were people who saw him with their eyes and didn't get it, and there are people who saw him with their eyes and got it same with Moses same same with all the men all the people of God.

301

00:51:27.630 --> 00:51:29.430

Bill Hughes: to guide us in different ways.

302

00:51:29.880 --> 00:51:38.970

Bill Hughes: And you know what I experienced when i'm when I have sense the presence of God it's, a thing that transcends what I see, even if it may be triggered or.

303

00:51:39.390 --> 00:51:59.430

Bill Hughes: informed by the thing that i'm seeing here and I didn't want to touch on something that that Maria was sharing in terms of you know, the suffering of today that the one with the one experiences, whether, if you are, if you are a slave and you're being brutally beaten and wept or if you're.

304

00:52:02.220 --> 00:52:11.220

Bill Hughes: If you're in turman camps and are facing you know being gassed or, if you are sitting in.

305

00:52:13.050 --> 00:52:26.670

Bill Hughes: In Ukraine today literally being bombed, you know i'm watching people who are I don't know why they're doing it, but some for some reason they're going beyond their own life.

306

00:52:28.020 --> 00:52:28.740

Bill Hughes: and

307

00:52:29.880 --> 00:52:35.580

Bill Hughes: In risking their life for others, and I think that the.

308

00:52:36.960 --> 00:52:56.550

Bill Hughes: Part of the issue which sort of what Murray, I think, Maria was talking about is what is the calculus what's the thought process that goes to somebody who gives their life, on behalf of someone else or it's on behalf of something bigger than themselves or risks their life right so.

309

00:52:58.590 --> 00:53:04.770

Bill Hughes: You know I think there's one one explanation of that I don't know that it's the right one, and I figured maybe.

310

00:53:05.370 --> 00:53:16.200

Bill Hughes: Maybe needs to be challenged, which is what i've been calling you're doing a little bit is that will I give my life now because there's an afterlife so I don't need to care about my life now.

311

00:53:16.650 --> 00:53:26.640

Bill Hughes: i'm willing to give it so that I can get a reward and there's a version of that that I think might be appropriate and there's a version of that which.

312

00:53:27.180 --> 00:53:34.050

Bill Hughes: is absolutely wrongheaded because it gives you an excuse not to care about this life, and I think that's the challenge.

313

00:53:34.410 --> 00:53:40.830

Bill Hughes: that's attention that I see in this conversation is you know just thinking practically about like Okay, do I.

314

00:53:41.190 --> 00:53:49.770

Bill Hughes: If if this world is about this like do I protect my life so that I can do better in this world or do I risk my life.

315

00:53:50.340 --> 00:54:02.520

Bill Hughes: And not care about this, because I have promise of something else or do I not even care about a promise of something else do I just have more of a nihilistic approach to this life and say you know what if I perish I perish.

316

00:54:03.150 --> 00:54:13.350

Bill Hughes: Whatever and I think that's where you know there's like this rationale and there's kind of a cost benefit and they're sort of these trade offs that people have to actually move.

317

00:54:14.730 --> 00:54:23.820

Bill Hughes: And and see guidance on, and I do you think that people you know, there are manipulative folks who who see this whole dynamic.

318

00:54:24.540 --> 00:54:34.830

Bill Hughes: And who typically are wealthy and privileged in who whose God is there money God is resources and they they basically use the chaos.

319

00:54:35.370 --> 00:54:49.350

Bill Hughes: Of all of the rest of us to gain more control and power so it's in their best interest to kind of film at these kind of that you know these conspiracies and get people fighting with each other.

320

00:54:50.400 --> 00:54:58.620

Bill Hughes: But, but I do think at the middle of this for me is this question of how do I make sense of you know.

321

00:55:00.330 --> 00:55:09.120

Bill Hughes: What decisions to make about my life, how do I to what degree, do I protect my own life what to do, I do my life and how do I make sense of that.

322

00:55:09.630 --> 00:55:20.430

Bill Hughes: And how does the Bible and, and all this talk about you know God in heaven and Jesus and and what God wants from me and after what How does that all kind of.

323

00:55:21.780 --> 00:55:24.600

Bill Hughes: sort itself out, and I think there's a lot of confusion around that.

324

00:55:28.110 --> 00:55:28.320

Carl Racine: yeah.

325

00:55:30.480 --> 00:55:31.830

Carl Racine: I don't remember who was next.

326

00:55:31.860 --> 00:55:33.540

Carole Copeland Thomas: Year sister Carol is Dexter.

327

00:55:34.710 --> 00:55:40.140

Carol Targum: Okay, so it's my first time here i'm going to jump in the deep end and.

328

00:55:41.250 --> 00:55:53.370

Carol Targum: I want to say something, first of all i'm Speaking for myself, I am not speaking for all Jews i'm not speaking for temple Israel i'm Speaking for myself, so that.

329

00:55:54.450 --> 00:56:04.020

Carol Targum: I just want put it out there, I rarely think about the afterlife it I occasionally I do, but I rarely think about it, and if I look at the.

330

00:56:04.530 --> 00:56:19.140

Carol Targum: quotes you just put up what I do live suspended between the miraculous past in some messianic era which Jews do believe it, but when I go down to your second quote I say.

331

00:56:21.660 --> 00:56:34.710

Carol Targum: I live here in the present now, and this is where my focus is and part of being here and now, is planting that sapling for

the future.

332

00:56:35.610 --> 00:56:53.940

Carol Targum: And so, even if the Messiah is coming, I still have the plan, I still have to plant that saplings in the future, and another part of my personal thinking is the concept of Bethel Queen, which means in the image of God, I think that is a very key.

333

00:56:55.620 --> 00:57:14.670

Carol Targum: concept in Judaism, which means, as I sit here as a newbie this first time I have to look at everybody on my screen and try to sit within myself and try to see them and what they're trying to do, and their struggles in their life in the image of God.

334

00:57:16.050 --> 00:57:17.370

Carol Targum: So that's what.

335

00:57:18.810 --> 00:57:20.730

Carol Targum: What how I just jumped in the deep end.

336

00:57:20.970 --> 00:57:23.190

Carl Racine: Thank you, I couldn't have said it better myself.

337

00:57:24.270 --> 00:57:24.750

Carole Copeland Thomas: man.

338

00:57:25.320 --> 00:57:25.830

Bill Hughes: I really.

339

00:57:26.100 --> 00:57:29.640

Carole Copeland Thomas: it's just a Susan whatnot it's just a Susan this turns next.

340

00:57:30.120 --> 00:57:34.560

Bill Hughes: I can I just ask a follow up just a clarifying question of the statement.

341

00:57:37.830 --> 00:57:50.130

Carol Targum: Here i'm here to discuss and learn your vantage point better because I have little knowledge of Christian viewpoint, and so

I hope we can have a respectful dialogue.

342

00:57:51.150 --> 00:57:59.910

Bill Hughes: No, no, I think I agree with you, I just tried I just would like i'm trying to understand a little bit as you think about the here and now, and.

343

00:58:01.410 --> 00:58:02.550

Bill Hughes: How do you think about.

344

00:58:04.650 --> 00:58:11.880

Bill Hughes: Your choice to make sacrifices for other people and to yeah, how do you think about that.

345

00:58:12.540 --> 00:58:15.150

Carol Targum: So, and again i'm speaking for me.

346

00:58:15.180 --> 00:58:32.490

Carol Targum: Personally I look at my values which are rooted in Jewish values and since I cannot do everything, liberal Judaism allows me to make choices and I make those choices and they can be.

347

00:58:34.170 --> 00:58:35.730

Carol Targum: Maybe I.

348

00:58:36.960 --> 00:58:49.710

Carol Targum: As I did send money to the Ukraine, because I see those people suffering sort of metaphorically a parallel to the exodus story.

349

00:58:51.510 --> 00:58:55.740

Carol Targum: And so that's my choice to to do that.

350

00:58:57.060 --> 00:59:10.140

Carol Targum: I don't believe in sacrificing myself, I mean if there's a soldier I don't know if I would go to war or not that's something I know, think about my emphasis on the present is.

351

00:59:11.370 --> 00:59:30.990

Carol Targum: turns back and says to me, giving your values which are

rooted in Judaism, what can you do now to make the world a better place that's within my ability, either by volunteering or contributing or going to a march or whatever i'm not sure that helps you.

352

00:59:31.890 --> 00:59:34.110

Bill Hughes: Thank you, thank you, I appreciate that.

353

00:59:34.590 --> 00:59:35.280

Bill Hughes: Thank you Carol.

354

00:59:36.090 --> 00:59:45.210

Carole Copeland Thomas: Thank you sister Carol Thank you now in this order sister Susan sister Marie and sister lauren up next.

355

00:59:45.750 --> 00:59:53.730

Susan Racine: All right, hi I have nothing so eloquent to say i'm just I went on my phone when Carl talked about I bet you can hear YouTube sermons even.

356

00:59:54.780 --> 01:00:07.170

Susan Racine: But I did get an article from Rolling Stone that evangelicals like pat Robertson, are convinced Putin is being compelled by God to wage war and bring about the end times, so I just wanted to say I was fact checking it.

357

01:00:07.800 --> 01:00:16.740

Susan Racine: With it, and my brothers partner is always sending me crazy stuff that evangelicals are preaching and I hate to be pointing fingers at evangelicals but it's so easy to do.

358

01:00:18.090 --> 01:00:26.340

Susan Racine: about the different levels of heaven and how there are some plant parts of having that are more exclusive than other parts.

359

01:00:26.790 --> 01:00:44.340

Susan Racine: And he was trying to convince I imagine if you gave to this particular tale of televangelist you can get up into the more exclusive it parts of heaven so there's a lot of nuttiness it's being used to focus distract us from doing good here and now.

360

01:00:46.800 --> 01:00:47.250

Susan Racine: that's all.

361

01:00:49.020 --> 01:00:53.760

Carole Copeland Thomas: hey man who nuttiness abounds sister Marie.

362

01:00:54.390 --> 01:01:03.120

Marie Doubleday: Okay, thank you um two comments i'm going back to brother bill once again i'm going to go back to Harriet tubman.

363

01:01:04.050 --> 01:01:19.890

Marie Doubleday: Obviously i'm not her and not her thoughts, but she was became a free woman by being up not not that she was 100% safe but she was safer than being down South at the time I.

364

01:01:21.150 --> 01:01:40.110

Marie Doubleday: don't know but and, from what I understand a lot of the people that she brought up north, where actually family members so going down the road perhaps that she wasn't thinking rituals thinking more of freeing.

365

01:01:43.590 --> 01:01:58.650

Marie Doubleday: People who have been enslaved and family members, rather than what you know yeah there was probably a religious belief, but it was more in the here and now, at that time now another brief comment regarding Armageddon.

366

01:01:59.700 --> 01:02:00.660

Marie Doubleday: I um.

367

01:02:02.730 --> 01:02:16.740

Marie Doubleday: We it's in god's hands, we can't predict what's happening what's not happening, you know I mean we really can't so you know it's much control as we as humans want.

368

01:02:17.280 --> 01:02:36.270

Marie Doubleday: And recently my dog had more control over me over the sock thing that some folks know about um is that it's up to God it's in god's hands, so if it's in god's hands, because we have to let it go because he can't micromanaging he does his thing.

369

01:02:40.260 --> 01:02:40.560

Carl Racine: yep.

370

01:02:42.690 --> 01:02:44.970

Carole Copeland Thomas: amen sister lauren.

371

01:02:47.130 --> 01:02:54.390

Lauren Lapat: This is the most time that i've spent thinking about the afterlife in my entire life and i'm just sort of in line with.

372

01:02:54.810 --> 01:02:59.340

Lauren Lapat: With Carol here and it's really interesting to me because I thought to myself.

373

01:02:59.880 --> 01:03:04.710

Lauren Lapat: Okay, when would be the natural time to think about the afterlife so I started thinking about Jewish funerals.

374

01:03:05.070 --> 01:03:12.660

Lauren Lapat: And then I started thinking about and how it doesn't happen there either, and then I started thinking about other funerals I gone to.

375

01:03:13.650 --> 01:03:29.340

Lauren Lapat: outside of my faith and how everyone is sort of talking about what's to come, but still really celebrating the life of, and so I guess what what i'm thinking about call from your teaching is is a sense of balance.

376

01:03:29.850 --> 01:03:43.620

Lauren Lapat: And, and how we use how we use our time right eight and because I was sort of surprised, a little bit because I haven't studied the New Testament I haven't gone, you know, maybe i've gone to I don't know.

377

01:03:44.400 --> 01:04:02.100

Lauren Lapat: 30 different choice churches in my my whole life, you know and had different experiences, but they've mostly been either visiting or holidays or lifecycle events right that I didn't have this sense of how much and and i'm not assuming it's the same and and all these other churches.

378

01:04:03.300 --> 01:04:17.490

Lauren Lapat: My own perspective of looking at Christians and and how they act in the world and it's always kind of focused on doing good right and not thinking about what's to come, I i've only gotten the what's to come at a funeral.

379

01:04:18.450 --> 01:04:32.250

Lauren Lapat: Not as much in the day to day so so this conversation is is really kind of interesting to me you're not saying don't focus on the afterlife your or don't think about the afterlife you're thinking about focus on the now.

380

01:04:33.180 --> 01:04:37.470

Lauren Lapat: focus on the now and so it's a matter of percentages in my head.

381

01:04:37.950 --> 01:04:46.440

Lauren Lapat: Like my percentage my percentage is like kind of like carol's like zero right like i'm living my life and and i'm here and I don't really think about.

382

01:04:46.890 --> 01:04:52.530

Lauren Lapat: The only time I think about what's to come, is that the is that as that Yom Kippur like in the 10 days of all.

383

01:04:52.860 --> 01:05:01.170

Lauren Lapat: Right i'm thinking about like Okay, am I, you know, am I going to literally be signed up in the book of life for the next year.

384

01:05:01.500 --> 01:05:06.180

Lauren Lapat: And I take an accounting of how I lived my life and what can I do differently, and all that other stuff.

385

01:05:06.690 --> 01:05:15.540

Lauren Lapat: But I don't actually think beyond that and I had a really interesting conversation with with a rabbi after after you know you like throw away all your sins.

386

01:05:15.780 --> 01:05:23.730

Lauren Lapat: And you say you're going to do better, and like next week you do the next you do the same thing you said you were going to do better on and and.

387

01:05:24.510 --> 01:05:33.630

Lauren Lapat: And I said to one of my rabbis like oh i'm only a weekend and and i've already blown it, you know what I mean and and and they said, you know you don't have to like.

388

01:05:34.020 --> 01:05:41.760

Lauren Lapat: wait till next year to have an accounting of of your soul and try to do better right, like you, can you can actually keep going.

389

01:05:42.270 --> 01:06:02.340

Lauren Lapat: But those are the only times I really think about this so it's an interesting perspective to hear a difference in in in percentages right and and your argument, I think, is to is to shift it and be more present in the here and now, if i'm understanding this whole conversation.

390

01:06:02.430 --> 01:06:12.780

Carl Racine: Exactly and that the that the you know talk about the the alarm have other life to come the whatever you want to call it.

391

01:06:14.040 --> 01:06:24.810

Carl Racine: is a way of telling us how we should live now and giving us your perspective on this world rather than simply satisfying idle curiosity about the future.

392

01:06:26.940 --> 01:06:32.100

Carl Racine: we're gonna have to close I just had one brief, I guess, really question.

393

01:06:33.570 --> 01:06:34.590

Carl Racine: To have people.

394

01:06:35.100 --> 01:06:35.790

Val: Think of that I.

395

01:06:36.210 --> 01:06:37.650

Val: Can I say something before you.

396

01:06:38.070 --> 01:06:50.190

Val: Can um, I just wanted to just add on to it Lauren was saying, I think, for me, lately I've been thinking about the afterlife just because my mom recently passed away late last year.

397

01:06:51.060 --> 01:07:08.550

Val: And I haven't thought about the afterlife and so much death and tell my mom passed away or even leading up to her passing away, but I had the privilege and blessing to take care of my mom for the last four years, and she said she didn't want to go to a senior.

398

01:07:09.660 --> 01:07:14.280

Val: Senior home she didn't want to be on life support and want to live with her son and.

399

01:07:15.270 --> 01:07:23.880

Val: His wife, so in order for me to honor her wishes I left my house rented out moved in with her for four years, and took care of her until the very end.

400

01:07:24.390 --> 01:07:31.470

Val: By her side and that's when I started thinking about the afterlife but more so, not only for me, but more so for her like.

401

01:07:32.010 --> 01:07:35.820

Val: You know what's going to happen, how is she you know what's gonna.

402

01:07:36.300 --> 01:07:44.850

Val: How, how is she going to be in the afterlife and she was a great mother great person, and so I think for me now I'm thinking about it more often because.

403

01:07:45.120 --> 01:07:58.200

Val: Of the death or because of seeing her slowly die and and it was great like living on earth, I honored her wishes stop my life for four years hated to her served her as if I was serving God.

404

01:07:59.040 --> 01:08:10.800

Val: But then when she passed, it was like oh my God, this has been on my mind for so long for so much time and I think that's why I've been thinking about the afterlife more for me, but also where is she and

how is she doing.

405

01:08:13.590 --> 01:08:15.090

Carl Racine: Sure, and and that's.

406

01:08:16.320 --> 01:08:18.180

Carl Racine: A normal thing.

407

01:08:19.590 --> 01:08:20.130

Carl Racine: But.

408

01:08:21.240 --> 01:08:26.160

Carl Racine: Going back to what I say, in response to what brother bill said about.

409

01:08:27.330 --> 01:08:37.650

Carl Racine: Self sacrifice, I think we have to be careful not to make an assumption, the only religious people can be self sacrificing.

410

01:08:39.360 --> 01:08:42.630

Carl Racine: Because it's certainly true.

411

01:08:43.950 --> 01:08:48.420

Carl Racine: That people who don't believe in God or people who don't have religious faith.

412

01:08:49.650 --> 01:09:01.470

Carl Racine: can be just a self sacrificing sometimes more so than people who do so a belief in an afterlife or belief in a heaven and hell or whatever.

413

01:09:02.760 --> 01:09:08.160

Carl Racine: isn't isn't necessary for you to act.

414

01:09:09.450 --> 01:09:11.310

Carl Racine: Self sacrificially in this world.

415

01:09:15.210 --> 01:09:15.660

Carl Racine: Is that.

416

01:09:16.920 --> 01:09:21.270

Val: yeah and I don't think I did it to to earn points and have in.

417

01:09:21.780 --> 01:09:23.730

Val: terms of serving my mom and Sam.

418

01:09:25.650 --> 01:09:28.590

Carl Racine: Earlier what what what bill Hughes was talking about.

419

01:09:28.860 --> 01:09:32.280

Carl Racine: Okay, no this wasn't in response to what you said.

420

01:09:34.020 --> 01:09:38.700

Carl Racine: Well, we were we're at an end of our time here.

421

01:09:39.000 --> 01:09:47.550

Carole Copeland Thomas: And and brother Carl since everybody is here, and we have such a remote a robust group, I just want to take one more group chat so get your.

422

01:09:48.150 --> 01:10:04.770

Carole Copeland Thomas: Self plus gussied up and I will email this because I know some have difficulty using the chat to download it so i'm going to email this to our list Thank you so much Carol please come back and let me Let me close the screen.

423

01:10:06.630 --> 01:10:12.900

Carole Copeland Thomas: And then we will do so thank you and thank you so much for this class today.

424

01:10:16.260 --> 01:10:17.070

Carole Copeland Thomas: Everybody ready.

425

01:10:19.530 --> 01:10:21.780

Carole Copeland Thomas: All right, i'll do i'll do a countdown.

426

01:10:23.880 --> 01:10:24.240

Carole Copeland Thomas: To.

427

01:10:25.380 --> 01:10:29.970

Carole Copeland Thomas: This is all right, this is number 1321.

428

01:10:31.440 --> 01:10:32.850

Carole Copeland Thomas: This is number two.

429

01:10:34.380 --> 01:10:42.300

Carole Copeland Thomas: You go down in history 321 God bless Thank you brother Carl is yours to close out.

430

01:10:43.530 --> 01:10:46.710

Carl Racine: All right, Can someone please close us out in prayer.

431

01:10:50.850 --> 01:10:51.360

Carl Racine: Everyone.

432

01:10:55.890 --> 01:10:56.910

James Williams: Go ahead go ahead here.

433

01:10:57.000 --> 01:10:58.200

James Williams: And it's all yours.

434

01:10:58.830 --> 01:11:12.390

Hannah Brooks: Alright heavenly Father We thank you for this wonderful study, thank you for being with us what's our teacher and, especially, we thank you for all that you're doing in our lives, please be with each one of us, as the week progresses in Jesus precious name.

435

01:11:13.800 --> 01:11:16.260

Carole Copeland Thomas: amen Thank you no class next week.

436

01:11:17.460 --> 01:11:18.900

Carole Copeland Thomas: we'll See you in two weeks.