



281.890.1900
TheMETonline.org

Jones Road Campus
13000 Jones Road | Houston, TX 77070

Fry Road Campus | Hopper Middle School
7811 Fry Road | Houston, TX 77433

[*Introductory video*: Circus-like oompah music accompanies pencil sketches of various items increasingly filling up to overflowing a lined sheet of notebook paper: television, car, laptop computer, house, stacks of school books, wall clock, incline weight bench, briefcase, soccer ball, and wheeled suitcase. All these items that fill our lives suddenly disappear leaving a clean sheet of notebook paper which then fills with the series title: MARGIN printed in handwritten, outlined letters that pulsate to the music. When the lights come back up at the video's end, Pastor Scott Rodgers begins.]

All right, open up your Bibles to *Luke, chapter 10*. As we dig in this morning—by a show of hands, I want to ask [you] to be honest this morning. (All right?)

- If you occasionally or regularly feel stressed, lift your hand up high at our *Cypress Campus*, here at *Jones Road* [and] all over the place. (All right, keep it going.)
- If you experience on a regular basis some financial tension in your life—the holidays are coming (what does that mean?)—put your hand up in the air. (Okay, good-good-good.)
- If you wish there were a few more hours to a day—just so you could relax, spend time on yourself or someone you love—put your hand up in the air. Everybody that feels like: *I need more time in my life*. (Hands are up everywhere.)

Why is it that our culture is so about living life to the max?

- Gotta have more.
- Gotta do more.
- Gotta get more.
- Gotta conquer.
- Gotta build.
- Gotta go.
- Gotta more—more, more, more!

Why is that?

I would argue—that it's possible even—that we live our life at not only an unsustainable pace, but maybe even an unbiblical pace.

- We are maxed out.
- We are stressed out.
- We are pushing it to the limit.
- We are filling our schedule.
- We are draining our bank accounts.

All to get more.

- What if one of the keys to having a better life was not in the word *more*?
- What if one of the keys to having a better life was in the word *margin*?

Today we begin a brand-new series called: *Margin*. As we explore...

- How in the world did we get to a place where we are living a marginless life?
- How can we create margin so that life can be better?

All during this month and during this series, we're going to look at some things:

- Financial Margin

- Moral Margin
- Margining Our Time

How do we create more margin in such a marginless life?

For the sake of this series, we have created a working definition for the word *margin*. If you're taking notes, you can write it down. It's this (that): Margin is the amount available beyond what is *necessary*.

MARGIN: THE AMOUNT AVAILABLE BEYOND WHAT IS NECESSARY

- Imagine, out of seven nights a week you'll only have something going on for three nights. That would give you a margin of four nights a week. Four nights where you could literally do nothing (if you chose); invest your time in someone you love [or] maybe a ministry you love. But you had margin; you had more time than what was necessary. Now, that's a new concept.
- Imagine at the end of the month you had money left over. You have \$100 and you only have \$80 worth of bills. That means you have \$20 in margin. What would that be like? Imagine money left over at the end of the month; more money than what was necessary. That's a new concept.
- Imagine for many who may be living a life of outright sin and destructive behavior...
 - it's tearing you apart on the inside
 - it's ripping apart your world on the outside
 Or, for those of us who come so close to the line of temptation...
 - we're walking along the edge (and)
 - it's impossible for us not to slip
 What if we put in our life some preset buffers (that put space between you and I)—margin—where temptation was, so that we could live a life that honored God and glorified Him? *Moral Margin*—that's a new concept.

Welcome to our series called: *Margin*. At our *Cypress Campus* and here at our *Jones Road Campus* (if you're ready) put your hands together. I want to feel your passion, your excitement. Come on! Let's make some noise if you want to talk about margin.

This is not a 21st century: *Oh, this is our generation thing. Man, we're just...*

- *We're blowing and going.*
- *We're maxed out.*
- *We're depressed.*
- *We're stressed.*

All this stuff—this is not a 21st century thing. This has been going on for ages; different contexts expressed in different ways. I think you may relate to a lady in *Luke, chapter 10*. Her name is Martha. *Luke, chapter 10* (listen again) and let's look at *verse 38*. It says this:

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

Luke 10:38 (NIV)

Now imagine this (let's pause for a second): Try to envision as best you can (I know it may be difficult)—try to envision the Creator of the universe, God in the flesh, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, walking through the doorway of your home. Whew! Talk about the environment just changing. He walks into your house. He walks into Martha's house.

Verse 39 says this, that Martha—

She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

Luke 10:39 (NIV)

Now check this out. Not only does Jesus Christ walk into your house—He's not just eating chips and salsa, mingling with the other guests—

- He stops what's going on.
- He sits down.
- He begins to teach.

The Giver of life, the Creator of life, the Sustainer of life is sitting in your La-Z-Boy teaching you about how to do life. That's going on in Martha's house.

And it says in *verse 40*:

But {Martha was what?} Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be [made]....

Luke 10:40a (NIV)

Imagine this: Jesus is sitting in your La-Z-Boy teaching on the principles of the kingdom of God and you cannot help but be distracted by things that need to get done. Everybody says: *Oh, Martha!* So here's what it says: "She came to him"—so much so—

...She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

Luke 10:40b (NIV)

Wow! She's got (I mean) she's bold! Woo! *Stop what You're teaching, Lord, and tell my sister Mary to help me right now, because this stuff has to get done.* It goes on in *verse 41*—Jesus' response:

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," {I wonder if He repeats it if it's extra emphasis on something} the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:41-42 (NIV, 1984 edition)

Two women who had the very same opportunity to sit at the feet of Christ. One does; the other doesn't and is distracted by—not sinful things, but—good things. After all, wouldn't you and I want to make sure that our home is ready for the guests?

- Clean it up.
- Vacuum the carpet.

- Clean off the counters.
- Put out the...
 - chips and salsa
 - the Dr. Pepper
 - the little Styrofoam plates

Make it all ready and welcome everybody. (I mean) you and I—those are good things—you and I would do it. But we see that Martha chose the *good* things and not the *best* thing.

I would suggest that if Satan cannot get you and [me] to live a really, really bad life, he will try to get you and [me] to live a really, really *busy* life...distracted by the good things. In fact, here in the states I would say that it's a cultural thing—and maybe it is in different places in the world—but we equate busyness to success.

Think about it for just a minute.

- Hey! Man, how's business going? *Oh-ho-ho, we are busy. Ooh! Yeah!*
- How's Mary Jane? How are the kids doing? How's family? *Oh, wow! We're busy.*
- Scott, how are things going at church? *Oh! Whoa, man! We're busy.* [Flexing his bicep:] *Hah, look at me.*
- How's that new business venture going on? I knew you took a big risk and you stepped out and you launched into that. How's it going? *Oh-ho! We are BUSY!*

As if to say—if we said we weren't busy, somehow we're failing and we're lazy:

- Hey! How are things going at church? *Oh it's...yeah, it's going good. I've been golfing a couple times a week.*
- How's the family? How are the kids? (I mean) I know they're really involved in stuff. *Oh, you know, we've been hanging around playing Monopoly a few nights a week.*
- How's business? (I mean) you guys are cranking. (I mean) sales are high. *Oh, man, I tell you, it's...you know we're (kind of)...we have long lunches.*

You must be lazy and you must be failing. We have equated busyness to success.

Here is what *verse 40* says (let's go back to it)—when it says:

But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him {the Lord} and asked, "[Lord,] don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

Luke 10:40 (NIV)

I think Martha's challenge is our very own. With all of our busyness we, like Martha, genuinely believe that everything that we are doing is absolutely necessary.

Scott, you don't understand. If I'm an industrious guy and

- *I want my kids to have the very best (and)*
- *I want to have the best*
 - *I need to build an organization (and)*
 - *I need to do this (and)*
 - *I need to do [that].*

- *I'm telling you: This whole thing about living a marginless life and creating a margin...it's not for me because that's not who I am. I'm here to take over the world.*

(I'm speaking to myself. I'm not speaking to you; I'm talking to myself right now.)

But therein lies the challenge. How do we create a life that has margin, so that we do not overlook the *best* things for the *good* things?

We're living at such a pace—we're consuming all the margin that we have in our life...

- financially
- morally
- with our time
- everything

We eat it up and we live—just redlining all the time—with no margin. Yet, if you and I were to sit face-to-face and talk about it, we'd literally believe that everything (that) we're doing is absolutely right and maybe even we're doing it in the name of Christ—living a marginless life.

I think the answer to all of this is hidden in *verse 41* [to] give us some kind of hope. Because I look at my life and I think: *There's no way I can get out of this machine—this rat race—that I'm living in.* And I think that here in *verse 41* is hidden the answer. Let's pull it out. Jesus said:

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. {And here it is:} Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:41-42 (NIV, 1984 edition)

I think I see here that Jesus reminds us that we have the choice: To choose what's *best* over just what's *good* in our life.

When we live a marginless life—having no margin in many areas—here's what happens. (If you're taking notes, you can write this down.) One of the consequences of living life without margin is that when our margin decreases, our stress increases.

WHEN YOUR MARGIN DECREASES, YOUR STRESS INCREASES

Many of you know exactly what I'm talking about, because on your way to church today, you were fighting like cats and dogs in the car. Because we didn't take into account all the things that come our way with time—getting ready to go to church and what can happen—especially if you have small children.

- Guys, you went to [put] on the shirt that you're going to wear to church—
 - you get it out of your drawer
 - you look at it on the hanger

It looks like a ball of tinfoil it's so wrinkled. You think: *Oh, my gosh! I've got to iron my shirt. Now what's going on? How come my shirts aren't starched?* You didn't think about it. You didn't take it into account. Put some margin in there.

- The kids spill the milk on the counter—cereal’s everywhere—and you’re already late for church. And you start bickering: *Oh, what am I going to do?* Without margin we’re just going crazy. We’re arguing all the way back and forth to church.

Shelly and I used to do that. The first few years of our marriage, we would just bicker back and forth on the way to church. [Pantomimes unintelligible bickering using both hands with fingers slapping toward thumbs] Then we figured out the solution. (And I will give this to you for free today: How to stop arguing on your way to church with your spouse.)

Here’s what we did: *We began riding separately.* Honest-to-God truth! We said: *Do you know what? We cannot figure this out. We need intervention. We need some drastic decisions. Let’s—because we have the luxury of two vehicles—let’s ride separately to church. You take that kid; I’ll take that kid.* Boy, the peace that surpasses all understanding that guarded my soul on the way to church and hers as well. [alluding to *Philippians 4:7*] Then when I eventually got on staff at that church, it was awesome because we haven’t ridden together to church in (like) 13 years—because I’m always there early and she is not. (So that’s free of charge. You can stop arguing on your way to church; just ride separately.)

Here’s the deal: When you do that, you can stop faking it. (You know) you argue on your way to church—*It was your fault! It was your fault! I can’t believe...oh, my goodness!* You get in church and...

Someone [with a genuine smile] says: *Hey! Good morning!*

[Your scowl instantly turns into a smile:] *Hey! Good morning! God is good, isn’t He?*

[Pantomimes shaking another hand with a fake smile:] *Heeeey!*

[The greeters at the door:] *Hey! Welcome to church!*

[You keep smiling and respond:] *Oh, praise the Lord. It’s a beautiful day! Oh, wow!*

You can just stop lying, because you won’t be arguing on your way to church. (All right, so that was free.)

When our margin decreases, our stress increases.

- *Boy, I could squeeze into that Ford F-150, King Cab—woo!—leather-stitched interior. It’s gorgeous! I could squeeze into that for maybe (you know) 500 bucks a month for 124 months. That’s all. I could get in there. I’m good! I think I can get in—oh, my goodness!*
- *You know, I don’t like commercials. That XM Satellite Radio, that’s going to be nice. I can squeeze into that for 30 bucks a month (you know) that’s only \$360—that’s a dollar a day for no commercials on the radio [and] choose my program. I can squeeze into that.*

We squeeze in financially, but—

- What happens when something breaks?
- What happens when the air conditioner goes out?

—we have no margin. When (we have) our margin decreases, our stress increases because we have no margin. We live marginless.

Another consequence for living a marginless life (is that): When our margin decreases, our relational intimacy also decreases.

WHEN YOUR MARGIN DECREASES, YOUR RELATIONAL INTIMACY DECREASES

I think of it this way. What happens is we get so busy. We're so stressed out living a marginless life that, with those that are closest to us, our interactions now look like business transactions. We're going everywhere; we're going all over the place—

- *Hey, honey, we need to get together and talk about this month's calendar. We need to have a calendar meeting. All right. Pull out the laptop. Pull out the calendar—we need to figure this [out]. Oh my goodness, we're so busy. Your most intimate relationship now looks like a business transaction. Put it on your calendar to have a calendar meeting. Let's get together and figure this out. Okay, we've got that figured out. All right, we are good.*
- *Oh my goodness! We need to get together to have a budget conversation, because we have more bills than we have cash at the end of the month. We need to make the tough decisions. Who's going to go without and who are we going to pay? Let's have a budget meeting. Call the troops. Go into the conference room. Let's look at the spread sheet. What are we going to do? Our intimate relationships, they look like business transactions.*
- Our kids—we're so busy going all over the place with good intentions—we're passing by one another. It's like a drive-thru ATM relationship. [Pantomimes looking back as if driving by, then talking fast:] *Hey! Oh...have a good week?—that's cool. Hey, how was school?* [Pantomimes whizzing by:] *Hey, Honey, can you help me? I've got to get to a meeting.* [Pantomimes whizzing by again] We're just a drive-thru (kind of) relationship. Our intimate relationships, they begin to look like business transactions.

When our margin decreases, so does the level of our intimacy with our relationships. We live a marginless life—

- Stressed out
- Maxed out
- Pushing it to the limits

—and the consequences are we can see we're paying the price all around.

So, let's just dig into something here. Here's what I'm going to ask and even suggest:

- If you are a follower of Christ,
 - Pushing out on all fronts
 - Living a marginless life
 - Consuming every bit of margin that comes your wayis it possible that at its core (at the very depth of our soul) the reason that we're going so hard and so fast at an unsustainable—even unbiblical—pace is because we don't wholly trust in God?
- We literally believe that it's up to us to make sure that we create all the comforts, all the excess and all the things that we need in our life. So we are just going hard creating our own kingdom (building it all up) because of fear that...
 - I could lose it

- I could lose my comfort
- I could lose something

So, go-go-go-go-go! Is it possible that we live a marginless life, because we don't wholly trust God?

If that's the case—I cannot answer that question for you; I can only answer it for myself. If we are living a marginless life—because at its root we don't wholly trust God—then is it possible that we've taken the good things and we've elevated them to the supreme thing?

When we take good things and we elevate it to the level of the supreme thing, I think Scripture has a word that defines that; it's called *idolatry*. Is it possible that if you and I are followers of Jesus, trying to make it all happen, and we've elevated things above Him to be the supreme thing, that we are living in a modern-day idolatrous life? (Let that just kind of sit for a moment.)

If that's the case, let's just have a little come-to-Jesus meeting. (All right?) *Matthew, chapter 11, verse 28*. You maybe have heard this a number of times before. Jesus is speaking and He says this (He says): "Come to me..."

Come to Me:

- Mom that stays at home,
 - that works harder and longer and faster than anybody on the planet
 - Soccer Mom, come to Me.
- Business man, business gal, business person,
 - working hard
 - believing in your cause
 - loving your organization
 - building it up
 - taking over the world all in a great, great worthy way
 but you're stressed out—you're maxed out—and you can't find light at the end of the tunnel, come to Me.
- The economy has hit you hard and you have lost your job and now you spend all your time emotionally stressing out about: *What's going to happen next? I don't know what to do*. We all understand what that feels like.
 - It's very real.
 - It's very normal.
 - It's very human.

Jesus says: "Come to me."

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

What I don't think Jesus is saying is (that): *Hey, I want you to be lazy and irresponsible. I don't want you to be industrious. I don't want you to be a visionary or innovative or create great things for the*

betterment of the world. That's not what I'm talking about. I think He's saying that there's a rhythm in life. (That) while we can do what He's called us to do, we can also be at rest in our soul.

²⁸ "Come to me...and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, {Isn't that a new concept? Let's learn from Jesus how to do everyday life.} for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV)

Is it possible that you and I could find a sustainable, biblical pace in which to live that creates margin on every front?—to rest, because we know that we have margin.

Here's a verse that does not sit well (I think) with Americans in our culture. It's *Psalms 46, verse 10*:

Be still, {—Hold on! Hold on! Let me...is that what that says? When's the last time you heard: *Be still?* It's like: *Freeze! You're under arrest!* (I mean) is that what it will take to get us to slow down and stop consuming air? *Freeze! Hold it! Don't move! Cypress Campus, don't move. Don't move; be still.* It feels awkward, doesn't it? Don't move—} and know that I am God...

Psalms 46:10 (NIV)

Whew! "Be still."

Here's your assignment for the week. In both of our locations, we have out in the lobby space of your campus an opportunity for you to get into some short, four-week long *Life Groups*. These are small groups of people building relationships through honest conversations about: *How do we live life God's way?*

- I want to encourage you to get into a *Life Group* so that you can process this—
 - You can pray together.
 - You can talk it over.
 - You can look at these scriptures together.—and say: *Where in my life do I need God's help to create margin because I'm living a marginless life?* That's one assignment.
- The next assignment is this: *Just spend five minutes this week—five minutes a day this week—just being still.* Just find your place—you've got to be awake; you can't be sleeping—and be still. The flood of thoughts [are]: *Oh, I've gotta do this. I've gotta do that.* Your mind's just screaming at you. No!
 - Just tune it out; be still.
 - Just rest in the presence of God and see how that might be a catalyst to more.Get in a *Life Group*—a *Margin Life Group*—and spend five minutes a day just being still.
- Maybe for many of you: *Take a technology blackout.* Just turn it off. I'm going to come home and turn my phone off. No [pantomimes a cell phone vibrating] on the countertop. Here's one. (Don't be throwing stuff at me, okay? Because this gentleman's sitting right here—*Cypress Campus*, there's a really good-looking gentleman sitting right down here that looks real fast—

and he will block the stuff that comes my way.) But just don't even go on *Facebook* a couple nights a week, just technology blackout.

Because (you know) as you and I were created for relational intimacy—and now we're living a marginless life—we don't have it with those closest to us, (I mean) in front of our face. We naturally go find it somewhere else. Isn't it amazing how no one on *Facebook* has a bad day? It's all great. You know it. You checked your *Facebook* page before you came to church. One of your best friends posted on their status last night (that): *Oh, I was taking a casual walk around Stonehenge as the sun had set. Off in the distance I saw a beautiful quarter horse with a very handsome man riding it with dark hair carrying a basket with a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon and Muenster cheese. As he dismounted the horse, he rolled out a blanket and said: Sit down; let's converse.* You sat there joyously as you talked about alternative forms of energy. *Facebook*, no one has a bad day.

Well, maybe for you, one of the things you can do this week is just have a technology blackout:

- No TV two nights this week
- No *Facebook*
- No computers
- Turn your phones off

Just engage with the people that are right in front of your face. You'll probably (shockingly) be reminded of how awkward that is, because it's been so long. Get a ball; go outside. Everything happens then. (All right?) Have a technology blackout.

We live a marginless life. Peace comes from having margin.

- Next week we're going to be talking about how to have margin in your schedule. Lance Witt will be here speaking. He'll be talking about rest and margin in your schedule.
- The following week, Pastor Sal will be speaking on financial margin. *How in the world do we create financial margin in our life?* Like Dave Ramsey [financial radio host and author] says: *Live today like no one else so that tomorrow you can live like no one else.* How does that happen?
- In our final week, we're going to look at: *How do we create moral margin in our life?* Buffers that keep us from [getting] too close to the edge, because of the stress, the fear and the ramifications of living a life of sin—how it blows everything up—how we live with margin morally.

The series is going to mess with a lot of you, and you're going to want to shake it off and move on. But I'm telling you (what): God's going to mess you up, because you may see how marginless life is and how critical it is to create margin in our life.

Let this scripture just simply speak to you—*Isaiah 58, verse 11*:

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthened your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:11 (NIV)

Do you believe it? In a marginless life, it's hard to embrace that. *Because I don't trust it. I don't believe it, Scott. I've seen it. I've got to keep going.* Let God help you create margin in your life.

Let's pray (heads bowed; our eyes are closed). As we pray, (you know) it's not that everybody here is really, really bad; you're just really, really busy—without margin—you're normal. You're sitting here and you're realizing: *God—I'm going to need God to help me here with this whole creating margin in my life.* And you say: *Scott, would you just pray for me that God would remind me; that He would help me get to a place where I can live with margin in my life? Because I can't see it happening naturally, I think I need some supernatural assistance here. Scott, would you just pray that God helps me with this whole thing in margin? If that's you, just lift your hand. I need margin in my life, and I need God's help to get there.* Hands going up (at our Cypress Campus as well).

Father, I pray (God) that You would help us. That You'd show us ways, teach us how to live a life that has margin, Lord; so that we can live in such a way where we don't just elevate the good things. But, God, we can focus on the supreme thing—the best thing in our life—and that's ultimately You. So, God, help us to create margin so that we're not living substandard in the good, but we truly are experiencing the best because we have margin.

With your heads bowed and your eyes still closed—here at *Jones Road* and at our *Cypress Campus* as well—you're sitting here and I want to ask you a question: *Do you know in a very personal way the Jesus that I'm speaking of today?* When He says: *Come to Me, all you who are labored (come to Me, you who are burdened) and I will give rest for your soul*—have you ever experienced rest for your soul through a personal relationship with Christ? If you and I were sitting over a cup of coffee together and being honest, you may say to me: *Scott, honestly, I don't know what it's like to have rest for my soul, because I've never experienced what it's like to have a personal relationship with Christ.*

As we speak about margin, let me speak to you for a moment and say this (that): Not only is there margin, but there's a big gap between who God is and who you are—His holiness and your lack of it. My biggest concern for this message is that you would hear me say: *Come to Jesus for a better life*—that's not what I'm saying. I am saying at its core: *Come to Jesus, because He is better than life.* You don't know Him, but you want to know Him.

Here's the message of the Gospel (that):

- God created you and I.
- We have sinned—we've fallen short of God's holiness and His glory.
- But He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sin and mine so that you don't have to.
- He lived a life that you could not live.
- He died the death that you could not die so that He could save your soul.

Today He's stirring in your heart; you can sense it. He's stirring in your heart to surrender your life to Him. Today's the day you can make that decision saying: *Jesus, yes, I surrender to You. Forgive me of my sin. Fill me with Your Spirit. I want to be a child of God.* Wherever you're sitting today—at *Jones Road*, at *Cypress* or maybe you're joining us online—you say: *Scott, that's me today. I want Christ in my life. I want to surrender to Him. I know it; I'm going to respond to it.* If that's you and you say: *Scott, pray for me*—just shoot your hand up real high, real bold. *Pray for me right now, Scott. I want Christ in my life.*

Sir, I see you. I see your hand here. Who else? Ma'am, I see your hand (right over here to my right). *I want Christ in my life.* Got you up there, ma'am. Praise God for you. Awesome! Who else? *I'm giving Christ my life today. I want rest for my soul.* I've got your hand right over here. Praise God! Two hands right over here—good for you. Awesome! Who else? *I want rest for my soul, man. I have no margin. I'm shaken by what I'm hearing, and God is stirring in my heart. I want to know that I have peace with Him. Scott, include me in this prayer. Before you pray, include me in this prayer.* Who else? *I want Christ in my life. I want peace in my soul. I want to know that I'm a child of God.*

For you guys that raised your hand, I want you to pray this prayer. I want you to pray it with conviction, with passion and sincerity, because we're going to call out on the name of God right now. I guarantee when you say *Amen* in just a moment, Scripture says that your past is gone. You're what's called *saved*—saved from the price of sin. You're now a child of God. That's a great, great deal. We're all going to pray as a family. Let's bow our heads; close our eyes. Say this (say):

Father God, today I give You my life. I surrender myself to You. Please forgive me of my sin and my mistakes. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died for me and that He's risen from the dead because He is God's Son. Fill me with Your Spirit, Lord. Be the Lord of my life. I love You, Jesus. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Jones Road Campus Pastor: Scott Rodgers

The MET
Metropolitan Baptist Church
13000 Jones Rd
Houston, TX 77070

Sermon Transcript Ministry
resource@TheMETonline.org

¹⁴³ **As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands.** ¹⁴⁴ **Your laws are always right; help me to understand them so I may live.**

Psalm 119:143-144

(New Living Translation, 2007 edition)

Legend:

(words in parentheses) = spoken by the preacher *but unnecessary* to the core sentence idea

[words in square brackets] = additional explanation for clarity *not spoken* by the preacher

{words in curly brackets within indented quote} = spoken explanation *not part of the quote*