

10-5-25 Message

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SPEAKERS

Pastor Dow Boyer

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Dear heavenly Father. Lord, we just come to you right now, Lord, and we just thank you for all that you do. Lord, we thank you that this place is not our home. This is not the end, Lord, and that you are with us and that once we are saved, Lord that you will never leave us nor forsake us. And Lord, we just pray right now, Lord, that You would just fill Debbie's mind with all those promises. Lord, it's certainly our desire, Lord, for the best case scenario, but we know she's one of yours. She's been so faithful, even leading the women's Bible study here. She means so much to our church, her and Richard, Lord, I just pray that You would just lift her up right now. Lord, certainly we submit to you. But Lord, we do. We are told to make our request known unto You. And Lord we selfishly pray for the best situation, Lord and that that you would just touch her right now, Lord. But regardless, we pray, Lord that you're the God of all comfort that you would be with her right now, and Lord that you would just strengthen her. And Richard, Lord, we know that your strength is made perfect in our weakness, and that your grace is sufficient. So Lord, we just pray that you'd be with their family right now, be with our service right now. We promise to give you all the honor and glory in Jesus name. Amen. Well, I was looking this week, and I'm like, this is hard to believe, but we're pretty much at the six month mark of when you guys voted and decided to choose a bald guy to lead you moving forward. And it's like, man, six months, that's half a year. It's hard to believe, and it's hard to believe that our beloved pastor has now been in in glory then for I guess I would make that around eight months now, and so we miss him terribly every day, but we are reminded of him and his legacy every day that we come into this place. And let's think about these last six months, and there's this expression of drinking from a fire hose, and that's really an understatement. These, these last six months have been crazy, things that I didn't even know, that I would have to know. They just show up every day, things that I'm just like, wow, I understand more and more of why pastor did things the way that he did, and it is just so difficult. You know, each day it's just like, this is huge. But then I'm reminded, God, it's your strength, not my strength. And so you just keep coming, and you keep showing up, and you all keep coming, and you keep showing up. Thank you for that, by the way. So we've had camps in these last six months. We We did our best to to bring in our own big, beautiful bill. And so that was, was a real win over, over his last six months, I broke a pulpit. I mean, hey, there's, there's that. I was barely on the job, and we, we broke it. And this one here, I think they made sure I couldn't really break this

one. We've had more involvement in small groups than we've ever had. And so that's a real win that we've had. We've been able to find a way to keep the women's Bible study going. We were unsure about that. I mean, we build off such an unbelievable foundation for for with Bev over his last several years, and with Debbie. And so my wife, I guess, ended up drawing the short straw, but she's doing a great job. So we were able to keep that going. We decided, Don and I had a conversation. We're like, oh, what would it look like to do an afternoon grief share group? And so we did that. We've tried a lot of different things these last six months, although we've kept things pretty, pretty normal, we've survived any major financial things besides the air conditioner a couple weeks ago, but then you all were faithful to be able to help us, to be able to do that. And I just was thinking back these last six months, I'm like but every week, I will always mention two things, and it's the gospel and joining the church. So what I wanted to do here for this first part, this is going to be a long intro, so bear with me. I want to make sure that a couple things are really clear, and you'll understand why when I talk about this here in a minute. Oh, also, we've also had a set of twins have a birthday. So happy birthday, Kelly and Murray and so anyway, I had to throw it in there. I was paid \$5 to do that. So, yeah, they're they're older than me, but younger than Methuselah. I don't know where that puts them on the age spectrum. No, so glad to have them. Maybe the only set of twins in this place. I don't know. There's probably more, but those the ones come to mind, well, that are in this Okay, Bill, half we got half of you here. I'm gonna be here all day. People just shout out names, and I'm never gonna get to the you thought the intro was long. This is the pre intro, anyway. So the first one is every week. It's always going to be as clear as I can make. It, I'm going to share the gospel, and some of you probably are going to be like, Hey, I've heard this 1000 times, and you're going to hear it every time, because it is the sole reason we are still here, right? It is to see all men saved and come into the knowledge of the truth. And I never want to take an opportunity of us gathering together and miss that. There is a point in every service. So I'm going to talk about that. We're going to point at the wall, and it's basically the mission of this church, who will have all men to be saved and come into the knowledge of the truth. But I also want to make sure we're not confused, because at the end of the service, I say, come forward. So I don't want to confuse you with that. So I want to spend a couple of minutes just be very clear, you are saved when you place your faith alone in the Gospel, when you receive that gift at that moment, that's it. You're saved. And there's not more to it than that First Corinthians 15, one through four says, Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you. You hear this all the time, right? I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which you have received and wherein you stand by, which also you are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain. And here it is For I delivered unto you, first of all, that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried and he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. And you look at that, and we talk about that, so I just want to kind of elaborate for a couple of minutes. If we don't have a problem, then we don't need a solution, right? And that problem isn't just the fact that we don't want to go to hell or we just want to go to heaven, right? Our problem is a sin problem. You know, in a world where we want to stop even using that word and we want to bring out new translations that want to just say mistakes or or mishaps or or shortcomings, let us never get away from the fact that it was our sin that separated us from God, right? We cannot minimize that, because that ultimately ends up being what the price that was paid was to cover that sin, not just a mishap, not just a mistake. Romans 3:23, says, we're kind of all in this boat together, right? We've all sinned and come short of the glory of God, there is none righteous, no not one. There is none that seeketh after God. Even Isaiah would have told Israel that their righteousness was as is as a filthy rags. We are sinners, and that sin has disconnected us from God, because sin cannot be in His presence. And not only are we sinners, but there is a payment for being a sinner and for sin. Romans 6:23, says, The wages of sin is death. The last part of that though, says, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. And I

love the way Romans five eight says this. I think it is the great encapsulation of what happens in the Gospel. It says God commendeth or put on display or demonstrated His love toward us, and that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. It wasn't just that we were sinners and separated us from God, but a holy, perfect God had to look down at imperfect creation and say, I'm going to be the solution. It wasn't just speaking the solution. It was death on a cross and the shedding of precious, sinless blood. There was a payment for every sin that we've ever committed, or that ever has been committed in this world, even the stuff you haven't done yet. There's no such thing as a free sin. But Ephesians, 289, says, For by grace, are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works. Lest any man should boast, God came down and shed His perfect, precious, sinless blood in the form of Jesus Christ on that cross. And the father said, it is done. It is complete. We don't need another sacrifice. No more shed blood. It is now complete. All that's required of mankind is to place their faith in that finished work. That's it. And as Ephesians 289 is talking about there, it's a gift. It's receiving that gift. Believing in the Gospel means no longer believing in yourself as sufficient. There is a change of mind and coming to end of oneself and placing instead faith alone in what Jesus did on the cross. For you, that is important, but at the end of the service, when I offer you the opportunity to come forward, that moment does not have anything to do with your salvation. It. It does not seal your salvation. It doesn't make it secure by you coming forward, right? Ephesians, 113 says, In whom you've also trusted after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and whom also after that you believed you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. It may be one of you in this room here today, right? As I'm talking about this, you've placed your faith in that loan. You've realized it right in your seat, and according to the Word of God, right at that moment, you're saved, and you're sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. When I'm asking you to come forward, it's so that I can help you do the second part of First Timothy two, four. It's important after you are saved to then begin growing and to understand, what does this path look for now? What does God intend for me to do now that I'm a child of God for him, and that's where some of us who have been in the race longer, can come along and and assist you in taking those first steps. That's the point of that. So I don't ever want there to be a misconception. I'm not asking you to complete your salvation by coming forward. I want to come alongside and help you grow and be everything God intended you to be in this life. So that's the first thing I want to make sure we are crystal clear when we talk about the gospel, and secondly, church membership. You guys hear me say that I get some questions, and some people are like, what does that even mean? Well, I want to make sure that we're not confused on one piece of things, and that is joining the church has nothing to do with you being a member of the Body of Christ. Nothing at all. I'm not asking you to become a member of the Body of Christ. That happens the moment that you are saved. So let's talk about the body of Christ for a moment before we get past the intro and into what we're going to talk about today. First, Corinthians 1212, through 13. Says, For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body being many, are one body. So also is Christ, For by one Spirit. Are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have all been made to drink into one Spirit? See that people say, Well, you don't baptize at Grace point. We absolutely believe in baptism. Fact, every one of you who are saved in here, you've been baptized, the Holy Spirit took you out of Adam and put you into Christ. That was a Spirit baptism, the moment that you got saved. That's, that's the, basically, that's the, that's the membership of the Body of Christ. Right there you get saved, you're now into the body of Christ, and you had nothing to do with it. You believed and the Holy Spirit placed you into the body of Christ. Speaking the body of Christ, there's only one author in the entire Bible that talks about the body of Christ. It's not Matthew, it's not Mark, it's not Luke, it's not John, it's not any of the Hebrew epistles. Peter didn't even talk about it. Only the Apostle Paul mentions the body of Christ, an entire body, or entire Bible. And I think there's something to be said about that, that is part of the mystery that was kept hidden before the world began. A little bit more about

this body. Ephesians three, six says that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body, partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel, Colossians. 118 he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he might have the preeminence. Or Ephesians. 215 Having abolished in the flesh, the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances for to make himself of twain, one new man, so making peace. And this body needs a head, and that head is Christ. He is the head of the body today in Ephesians, 523, when Paul's actually talking about marriage, but he says this in verse 23 he says, the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, and he is the savior of the body. See we as the body of Christ. Today we hold the head right. That is, that is Christ's role. He is the head of the body of Christ. So I'm not asking you to come and sign something to join the body of Christ. The moment that you get saved, you are a member of the Body of Christ. So that was the intro. How we doing, we doing? Okay? On time wise. Okay. What I want to talk to you today, though, is about the local church. What is its significance? Why is it important? Why am I asking you to join it? Do you have to join it? I mean, those sort of questions, right? Because I get these questions a lot. But first thing I want to be able to say is that Paul's letters are widely in majority. One. Written to churches in areas. So it makes it really easy to see. What does Paul think about churches in areas? Well, he's told us over and over again, and so I think it's important today that we don't, do not neglect the local church. I think it's awesome, even with this is not a counterpoint to anything that Dean said last week. We should support missions, and we will, and I'd like to do more, like to help Dean out there, but we do not need to neglect the local church. And this happened around covid, and there's still some people that have not made it back in since covid, and there's some benefits of the local church that I want to talk about today, and maybe you'll understand, maybe that's why he talks about it so much. And the first thing is, the fact that there are local churches means that there needs to be local leadership in churches. Why do that? If it's just individual houses, it's not just individual houses in the Bible, and I'm going to show you that here in a few moments. But the first thing, when we think about these churches, and Paul's talking to these local churches, he's often instructing, he's correcting, he's admonishing, right? And let's look at this in Titus one five, he talks about the leadership in a local church. He says, For this cause, I left thee in Crete that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting and ordained elders in every city as I had appointed thee. Now Paul's getting tied to some orders, and he's going to say this is the type of leadership you're looking for, but he says you need to go set things in order. There needs to be organization in the local church in these areas you need to go. And you need to look for people that meet these qualifications so that they can help lead those flocks, if you will, or lead those that parts of the body of Christ. And he starts listing these qualifications, that they should be husbands of one wife. They should be blameless. They should have faithful children. They should be temperate, they should not be drunk. They should be hospitable. They should be temperate. They should have sound doctrine. First, Timothy is going to say they should be apt to teach. Now, if they're just local, if they're just individual houses, like let's say Ephesus. That letter was written to 150 individual small houses. What would be the point of setting up the leadership? Wouldn't that just be left to the home? Paul understood this, and he knew the need of this. I like this. We've been studying Philippians. In Philippians, one, one, it's the only letter written to the church that addresses them this way at the beginning. By the way, it says Paul and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus, which are at Philippi with the bishops and deacons. Now, if you've been tracking with us at all on Wednesdays. I'll give you a little bit if you haven't been but the church, essentially, in Philippi, was started around acts like was that acts 16, I think, is when, when they were there, they leave Luke there. He sets up the leadership of the church. Basically, the letter to the Philippians is written 10 to 12 years later. So we went from no synagogue women meeting by the river, no male leadership anywhere, to now we have structured leadership, and the church is flourishing, and that all happens over a 10 to 12 year period. But I think it happened a lot quicker than that,

because Luke gets picked up after five years to join him on the third missionary journey. So part of it was establishing leadership inside the individual church. And because it's not just individual houses, Paul also spends First Corinthians addressing a myriad of things inside the church at Corinth that they needed to fix, that they needed to address. And one of the reasons that you have a local church is to address sin in the local church. In First Corinthians, five one, Paul says it is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles that one should have his father's wife. So he says there's an issue. It's commonly reported. You guys are okay with it. You're almost slapping yourself on the back, saying we have so much grace. We we allow this to go on in the church. But listen what he says in verse four and five. And there's a little phrase here that leads you to lead you to only one conclusion. That's not just individual houses meeting, but first, Corinthians five, four through five. It says, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, talking to the Corinthians, being all gathered together. It says, When you are gathered together, in my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ to deliver such as one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Now we know this individual, I firmly believe, is the guy from Second Corinthians, chapter two. However, regardless, there is a phrase here. He says, When you are gathered together, even though there were churches and homes, they gathered together. And we're going to see this in Romans as well. There was value in the local church, and there still is today, I would say there's more, more than just value. There's power in the local church. He says, When you are gathered together, not just individual houses. Colossians 4:15, and 16 salute the brethren which are in Laodicea and nymphas and the church which is in his house. And when this epistle is read among you, cause that to be read also in the church of the Laodiceans that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. Or how about this in Romans 16, five. Romans 16 shows both sides of it, because in verse five, it says, likewise, greet the church that is in their house. Okay, so you're like, well, all right, it's just individual house churches salute my well beloved epanatus, who is the first fruits of Achaia unto Christ. But then 18 verses later in Romans 16, he says, Gaius mine host and of the whole church. And the one chapter alone, he shows individual and the whole church. We saw that gathering together in First Corinthians, there is this idea of the whole local body of Christ assembling together, and so much to the point where, if this was just a sin in one house in First Corinthians five, then why does he say a little leaven leaveneth, the whole lump, right? He's telling them this needs to be purged out, because it's going to affect the local body. Y'all listening. You awake. You alive. Okay. But then the second part of that, the one of the benefits of the local church, is not only dealing with sin, but it's restoration. Right? In Galatians, six, one and two, it says, Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye, which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. He says, Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. Again, dealing with the entirety of the local church, being saying, we need to restore, put people back together when they've fallen. This isn't just an individual house. Second, Corinthians, two, six and eight. This is what I believe is the man who committed the sin in first. Corinthians, chapter five, he says, sufficient to such a man is this punishment which was afflicted of many so contrary wise you ought rather to forgive him and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with over much sorrow. Wherefore, I beseech you that you would confirm your love toward him. The local church does that should be doing that to lift our brothers back up who have fallen. Another part of the local church is that we can be grounded in growing up together. Ephesians 4:11, through 16 says he gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, why? For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Now listen to what he says here that we he's talking about the body of Christ. Be henceforth no more children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, by the slight of

men, cunning craftiness, by where wherein they lie and wait to deceive, he says. But instead of that, we speak the truth in love, which is important, we grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole BODY fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth According to the effectual working in the measure of Every part maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love, he says, the whole body is supposed to fit together and work together and use its gifts and talents and different things together to grow into the perfect man. That's why there's supposed to be no schisms in the body. That's why it's supposed to be the same care one for another. Those things are extremely important. Part of that growing up is to be able to recognize when false doctrine has made its way into the church, the church body, the local church body, right? This is Romans 16. That same passage we were looking at. This is what Paul says, I beseech you, brethren. Mark this. Them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned and avoid them, for they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. And I do think that goes on a lot today. A church should guard itself against false doctrine, against enemies, unaware, right? That's why you're trusting the leadership to create a safe environment for the body of Christ to grow, right, and for us to have to deal with problems as they arise. Then there's the idea that local church means participation. You see people. We mentioned it. Bill just mentioned it earlier today, that all the different teachers and leaders and the small groups, the things we have, it's a place of participation. First, Corinthians, 12:14, the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, because I am not the hand, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, because I'm not the eye, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members, every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him? Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves, coming together the local church is so important, it really is. And then there's music, as Paul's talking to the Ephesians in 5:19 he's saying, Speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. There's a lot of people that have made their way to our church because of the music program. And I know it's a struggle for it's a struggle for Stan. It's like every every day you're probably looking at saying, do we have to tweak some lyrics here and there? I mean, to try to get things to fit, or to find things that fit. But, you know, this talks about the body of Christ, and then the importance of music, even in the body of Christ, but then only the right music, right? And then there's giving Second Corinthians, nine, six and seven. But this i i Say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap, also sparingly. He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully, every man, according as he hath purposed in his heart. So let him give not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver. We are in the body of Christ. We are not under the law. It's not about tithes. We're not robbing God and Malachi, but today it is a show of our heart and our generosity of wanting to be a part and participate in the movement of the body of Christ, to see all men saved and come to knowledge of the truth. It is an investment your generosity is an investment for the gospel to go out. And we saw that last weekend. I don't know about the rest of you guys, but I it was news to me to know that we are the biggest financial supporter of deans in South Africa. We Grace point church, and then when I found out what we gave, I was a little embarrassed, because I'm like, that doesn't feel like very much. This guy is going out all over the country, and most Grace churches are 30 to 50 people begging for \$25 here and \$50 here to do a work to see people saved in South Africa that us will never be able to go to. He's furthering the gospel with the right doctrine, and I'm thankful we're his biggest supporter. But to be honest, we are not supporting him enough. We can do more. I think it would be a blessing to him. I love this in Philippians, since we've been studying them, verse 15 and 16, it says, You Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated or financially gave with me as concerning giving and receiving, but you only, for

even in Thessalonica, you sent, once and again unto my necessity, man, our generosity, to Dean and to the missionaries that we support and to our local community. We may be the only one or the biggest giver. We your generosity, and then us being able to pass that generosity on to the people that we support is a huge blessing to them. And I can't state that enough, we are playing a role in people getting saved in places we can't physically go. That's awesome. So when you think about church and what I'm saying, come join us. When you join something. It's a mutually beneficial relationship. You're committing something and you're receiving something. That's how it should be. And we believe that the existence of grace point is to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth we believe, seeing them come to the gospel of. Grace and then grow in the grace doctrine. So in effect, even though it's been mentioned to other places locally, but essentially, people come to grace and grow in grace here at Grace point. Now we're working hard to define what that means to be a member, because that's the question, what does that mean? Well, six months ago, I was voted on according to the church constitution, you had to be a member to vote for the senior pastor. There are reasons church membership makes sense, either that or we just change or scrap the Constitution, which I don't think we want to do that. Either there's going to be things we're going to need to do moving forward that those who have decided to join and be a part of us. Should have a say in what we do, and that's where membership matters. We want to define that. I know that I'm probably not the last time that the church had to vote on something, but it certainly I've been here since the beginning of it, and I I definitely know that was probably the most important thing that we voted on here recently, and there's no take backs on that, by the way. So let me wrap this up in the next few minutes, and I'm going to give you guys a challenge for this last quarter of the year. So I've made it through my first summer. I had some clue of the fine financial drop off that happens during the summertime, but this was my first time experiencing it. We nearly made it unscathed besides the AC unit. But my thought is this, can we plan if we know each year that the summers are going to be a little light, then why not plan for that? Right? I was thinking about Joseph and and with Pharaoh and him being able during surplus and be able to put the food back knowing that drought was coming. So can we not just do that? Can we not put a little bit ahead during the year, knowing we're probably going to be a little light in the summer? And so I'm going to show you guys a picture that every time you go to a concert, you see something like this, and then people try to guilt trip you. I hope okay. So for one Starbuck a week, we can, we can start putting money back. You know, what's crazy is you can buy a whole pie in Cuba for \$3 whole apple pie, right? Oh, and Puerto Rico, it's 350 it's a little bit more in Puerto Rico, right? But if you go to the Bahamas, probably because it's touristy, it's \$4 you can buy a whole apple pie. And those are the pie rates of the Caribbean that I just gave you right there. Yeah, those who were paying attention were rewarded for that one. But seriously, I stole that from somebody else this week, by the way. Hey, God, have mercy on me. All right, so show the picture of a Starbucks I know it's funny, and it's when you get to a concert, and it's like, that's the intermission. Everybody's like, don't leave your seat. And everybody's like, Yeah, I'm gonna leave my seat. And they're gonna show a picture of a child from a third world country, and then they're gonna talk about, for the cost of a Starbucks drink, you can support this child. Has everybody been to something like that before? And it's like, Man, I you get to go to the concert for pretty much free. And you're like, This is a great deal. And you got all these artists that come across, and you realize that's the reason, you know, there's some, it's all, they're all geared towards pointing you towards that, and they believe in the cause that they're doing. But I got thinking about this, and I was like, You know what? What would it look like at Grace point? Like we did, like a grace giving challenge from October, December, the fourth quarter of the year. And the intention for this is to maybe get ahead a little bit instead. There's nothing wrong with walking by faith. I understand that, but you and your own personal budget don't live that way. You know? What? If we tried to get ahead a little bit, and I thought as crazy. It says, I'm a numbers guy, but usually we have 400

and some people that come on a Sunday, \$10 a week, 400 people, if it average out, some probably could be more generous than that. And I'm saying, in addition to what you're already doing. So this isn't to cut everything, but I'm just saying In addition one Starbucks drink a week. You know, if you're into that sort of thing, that's \$4,000 a week, and there's 52 weeks in a year. So when you divide that by 12, that's \$17,333 a month, which very little extra generosity and it being spread out amongst the body, instead of one person or a couple of people, every time we have a big need, they break out the checkbook. And I know we all can't I know we're not all in a position where we can do a lot, but \$10 I think we can do a week. I thought, what would it look like over the next few months, if through the end of the year, if we tried this, just committing each one of us, what it would look like \$10 more? A week. It's \$10 that's it. And the goal would be that we would be able to put some of that aside knowing what's going to be coming next summer and when AC units break. We love commentary, but we'd like to have the money in advance right, to put some of that money towards emergencies and things like that. We have ran this so tight, and we Carol knows we have walked by faith for 17 years. And I thought something this simple, being spread out amongst the whole body of Christ is doable, and yet that would make a tremendous impact on our church with very minimal generosity. And I know people say, Oh, I didn't want to really talk about money today. I'm not talking about much. I'm talking about Starbucks versus us, right? You believe in the cause. You want to see all men saved and come to knowledge of truth. We want to do that. We would like to give more to Dean we would like to support those people in places that we're not at. There's 13 subdivisions being built around here. They're expecting Whiteland to go from 2200 students to 3200, students, we would like to find a way to market into that a little bit and let them know who Grace point is. And so I just want to challenge you all, starting with me. First, very moderate generosity, right? \$10 400 people do that a week. Some are going to be able to be able to do more. I get that if it averages out \$10 that's \$4,000 a week. That changes a lot at this church, and it's really just all of us sacrificing a little bit instead of it all falling on two or three people. So that was my challenge today. If you love the you love the church, you love the body of Christ. We want to see all men saved and come to knowledge of the truth. And we want to be able to do something great in this area. And so I'm hoping that as a church, we can step up. And it's not very much I want. I want to make sure that if I know that next summer is going to be a little light, we're prepared for it, and we're not ever looking back saying, Who do I have to lay off, or what missionary do I have to cut? I'm doing this for you. This message is going to be titled Steve Porter. Look it up on YouTube. It'll be live in two days. But I don't ever want to have to say I wish I could give more money to a missionary or now I have to have a difficult conversation with the missionary that I can't support you. I think it's important. And we're going to obviously have a new youth pastor at some point. Yeah, I think, I think at some point we're going to have one, you know, we're going to have to make sure that we provide for him and his family as well. So I just wanted us say, when I was doing the math, I'm like, it's very if we all just do our part a little bit, not talking a great deal, it changes everything in the church. So October through December, I want to give you guys a grace giving challenge. I gotta throw words like tithe offering. I'm not gonna tell you that God's going to press down, push down, gonna overflow and gonna do something with that \$10 and get you debt free. I'm not telling you that at all that's under the law that is not for us today. I'm just saying your generosity very moderately can change everything in this church, and let us plan ahead. And so if you're down for that great and if you physically can't, that's fine. Pray for us. Just pray for us. And so it's not I don't want anybody to feel guilty today or anything like that, but I feel like we as a church body, we should have mature conversations about money, we had to do about everything else, and this is one of the reasons the church exists, right? We support it and we help it to go forward. So that's all I had for today. I'm going to have you guys all stand I'm going to have Stan come up here as we're doing this at this time. If you're like, you know what, we've been here for a few weeks, I like, what's happening at Grace point, I would like to be a part of that.

We'd love to have you come forward, and we'd love to talk to you a little bit more about that. We'll have Don and Zach up front. If you're here earlier, when I was sharing the gospel, and you're like, you know what today is, the day I believe that I know from my heart I've been on the fence, or I've been researching this, or local events, current cultural events have made me think about this a little bit more, and today, absolutely I know that I am saved and I believe what you said today, and we'd love to have you come forward so that we can help You with your next steps. And outside of all that, we are excited to have you guys here today, and we are, I was like, I don't know what's going on here, but I'm going to close this in a word of prayer. Well, I'm going to have a word of prayer, and then Stan is going to sing, and I'll come up and dismiss us. And again, if you'd like to come forward, that's great. We'd love to have you today. So let's let's pray, Dear heavenly Father. I thank you for this day, but Lord, I thank you for the local church. Lord, I thank You, Lord, that you can use people like us to come together and do great things for you, Lord, but you are the head. Lord, I pray that each and every one of us, Lord, would want to be involved. We'd want to participate. Lord. That we would want to want to support, Lord, and want to see people saved and come to knowledge of the truth. Lord, that the thing that keeps us up each night is whether or not our loved ones and our and our co workers and our friends are going to hell or heaven. Lord, I pray, Lord, that there'd be such a burden to see the lost one, Lord, that it would just be awesome, and that we'd be able to look back on these, these moments that we've shared together and and say that man Heaven has become more populated because the people of grace point cared about souls and chose to invest in people who are winning souls in different areas. Lord, we want, we want to see all men saved and come to knowledge of truth. We want to see people come to grace and grow in grace. So I pray that would be the DNA of everything that we do here at this church. But we thank you that we were given this awesome opportunity, this great foundation, that that Pastor Jim left Lord, and we pray that we would not only honor you, but honor His sacrifice in setting this up by pushing this forward for as long as it takes until you come back, Lord. We thank you so much for the opportunity to serve together and we thank you for the gift of salvation Jesus Christ alone in his shed blood. We love you and praise you in Jesus name, amen. Amen.