

# 2-1-26 Message

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Nehemiah, gospel, prayer, social media fast, eternal life, body of Christ, distractions, ambassador, reconciliation, testimony, salvation, doctrine, faithfulness, evangelism, grace.

## SPEAKERS

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Let's get into it, Dear Heavenly Father, thank you so much for the freedom to gather together as the Body of Christ today, Lord, I know that sometimes you can take that for granted. Weather can change that one minute, or sometimes certain places you live in the world may not allow the freedoms that we still enjoy in this country, Lord, and so we just pray for our country right now, all the unrest that's going on. Lord, we know that you're in control and Lord, we know that you're bigger than any of our problems. But we also know the curse of sin is running rampant in this world, Lord, and that there will come a time, Lord, where it will be, where we will be with you for all eternity, where you will come down and for Israel, and you'll make it, you'll reign for 1000 years, and there'll be a new heaven and a new earth. And it won't always be like this, but this earth is not our home. And Lord, we're thank you that we thankful, that we have a heavenly hope. Lord, where we were going to spend time with you for all eternity. And Lord that it's not just about what's going on in this world, but Lord right now, people are searching and people are hurting. And Lord we just pray that the truth of the gospel would reach those who are blinded by the god of this world. And Lord that that light of this glorious Gospel will save people even through these dark times. Lord that we would let it shine bright when the world is looking for light and Lord, I pray that you would just be with us, that our words would be seasoned with salt and grace, Lord, that You would give us a heart to reach the people that need to hear the gospel. We just pray be with our time together today, but we pray that you're glorified in everything that we say and do. Please help Stan kind to enjoy their time away and get refreshed and come back ready to hit it hard and Lord, we promise give you all honor and glory, Amen. Alright, so if you remember a few weeks ago, and if you weren't here, I'm going to get you there. So a few weeks ago, we started talking about the book of Nehemiah, and it was a good way to start this new year. The calendar turned, and chapter one showed us pretty quickly that Nehemiah had a burden for other people, and this was something that we want to instill in our lives. We want to be spending time in prayer. We want to be aware of what's going on, so that we can be burdened to love people and to share the gospel, right? And so for Nehemiah, we know that he immediately, once he heard a report of what was going on with his countrymen, he prayed. You know, I think for us, it's time to swipe up and put our opinion. And if we don't put an opinion quick enough, everybody else is saying, Well, you didn't say anything when this so your your voice doesn't matter now, or if you try to even comment on somebody else's post. Right then you just get obliterated. And so at Grace point, we're going to take a 30 day fast off social media. Wouldn't that be great? It'd probably be pretty healthy for you. It would be my guess. But right now, there is just I thought it was I thought it was bad during the election. I thought it was bad during the summer of 2020 I thought it was bad during Charlie Kirk, and it just keeps getting worse. And it's like they suck us in with funny videos. But in between the funny

videos is somebody thinks that they're important enough for me to hear their opinion, and if I don't share that opinion, then I guess I'm no longer their friend. So it is just a weird world we live in. I was like, Can we not just go back to the prank videos? I mean, those were funny, and I get it. You don't put your head in the sand when things are going on this world, but we keep focused on why we're here, especially as believers. Of course we pray. Of course you're of course you care when terrible things are happening in the world, and you should, but it should motivate you to want to give people the only hope, really that there is, and that is the hope of eternal life, found in Jesus Christ, alone, in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, right? That's it. That's the true hope. You know, it's not getting a legislation passed. It's not, it's not getting certain people out of the country, or certain people in the country, certain certain people in the White House, certain people out of the White House. That's temporary, and it changes one election cycle, you're right back to where you were before. But a heavenly hope that cannot change, that blessed appearing of Jesus Christ. Now that's something that nothing going on in the world can taint, can alter, can stop. And I want to give people that hope, because it's their eternity. I'm not just trying to give them a better few years here on Earth. I'm sure there's enough people selling special potions and medicine and supplements that will promise to do that, but it's our eternity that we should be concerned with it should be the utmost priority. Nehemiah heard in one three he said, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach. That was the report. He said, my countrymen, even though I'm sitting here in captivity as the cup bearer to the king my country. Men are sitting in disarray. The wall is broken down. There is reproach. The gates thereof are burned with fire. That was in chapter one, but, but we've looked at this last few weeks by chapter four, it says, So built. We the wall. Now this is interesting. Nehemiah found and heard a report of his countrymen doing nothing about the wall. But after strong leadership, right after Nehemiah comes and cast a vision, after there is great delegation, the people had a mind to work. And they had a mind to work because they knew, after talking to Nehemiah, that the king supported them, God was with them. So they moved on. Now, Nehemiah had a bunch of steps in the process. He didn't communicate all that to the people, but he focused on something that could be repeated, something that could be understood. And all of them said, The Lord's with us, and the king supports this. And so they worked. Now, when we start looking at what it means to delegate. It takes people being faithful. I mean, you can order people around, and they do nothing, and then you have nothing but Nehemiah inspired people. He was willing to get on the wall with them. He's willing to get a hold of God. And every time opposition came, they prayed. Now to us today, it's not about building a physical wall, but it is the body of Christ. It is first, Timothy, two, three and four. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God, our Savior, who will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. That's what we're building today. The Body of Christ fitly joined together, as it talks about in Ephesians, this body of believers, this entity that was kept secret before the world began the path to salvation and a true gospel found in First Corinthians 15, this entity, whether you're Jew, Gentile, male, female, doesn't matter. All right, whoever places their faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, Christ is immediately in the body of Christ. And that's exciting to me. That's what we're building today. That's what you and I are left here to do. I guess nobody cares about that. That's fine. I care about it. Hopefully you're excited about that. It's good, like, if you ever been someplace and you're like, I really don't know why I'm here. I did every time I go to the doctor. I think every time I look in the mirror, I'm like, What am I doing doing here? But I'm one who operates best under clarity and when I know what I'm supposed to do, man, you're going to get great results, and the more details you give me, the better, because I'm one who's just going to, I'm going to follow the rules kind of I'm just going to, I'm just going to do what I'm supposed to do. And God has said this is what we're supposed to do. We're we're here to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. That's twofold. I know I harp on that all the time because that's God's will, and salvation is the first part. But the second part is that idea of growing people up in the doctrine, and then eventually you want to get them to the place where they are sharing the same story, and that's how it just keeps working, right? That same message. Now with that, though, comes the idea of, now we're on the wall and we're building it as Nehemiah was. There came distractions.

The first part we looked at was external distractions. That might be the things of this world. You know, they're going to try to pull us down from the wall and doing the work right. Nehemiah, 63 this was Stan battle, Tobiah and Geshem. They were, they were trying to get Nehemiah to come off the wall and quit doing the work right. And and Nehemiah, his response in 63 was, I'm doing a great work so that I cannot come down the conviction of what God had called him to do was stronger than any opposition that could pull him down. And that's really how it needs to be for us. It's, it's, it's not time to just say, Well, you know, we'll just have somebody else can do that. The things that get us off the wall, so to speak, the things that get us from doing what Lord has left us here to do, it doesn't take much. It seems like we're just so distracted. You guys all seen the movie, up a Pixar movie, The dog squirrel, that's us. It's like, okay, I'm reading my Bible. Squirrel, it really it's a text message, right? Because some of us are reading the Bible on our phones. That's a terrible idea, by the way. It's the seat of all your distractions, and you're like, God, I'm going to give you my undivided attention. Oh, ding. What's that? Oh, somebody like my picture. That's great. Well, let me hurry up and get through the devotion so I can get to that right? Put that thing away and this here, dust it, pull it off the bookshelf, fix the wall it was holding up whatever it is, but grab it and get into it, right? It is so important so we can know what we're supposed to do today, he has given that to us even. In Nehemiah 4:14 he looked up and rose up, and he said to the nobles and the rulers and the rest of the people, be not afraid of them. Remember the Lord which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses, you know, and this in here is going to show us the best way to fight for our families, our houses, our spouses, right? This is how I'm going to know as a husband, how to love my wife best, how to raise my kids. And I'm going to fail from time to time, but then the Word of God is going to show me how to get back up and do it better next time. So it's important that we are in the Word of God, that we're doing what the Lord has left us here to do. And then we talked last week about how sometimes when the external destruction, distractions aren't enough to pull us off the wall, sometimes it's the internal stuff. It's the body of Christ, it's the division, it's the problems we have from the not forgiving each other and gossiping and just being mad at each other, and it pulls us from doing the Lord's work, leaving churches, because, you know, this person said this, or took this picture, did this, or whatever. Man fighting through your differences is so important. Satan wants to pull us off the wall. He wants to do everything he can to not let this message go forward. Everything that you can do when he could not get your soul. He's going to take your he's going to take your drive and your position and your purpose away. That's truth, and we let him right. We let him destroy from the inside. We're not very gracious. We're not very forgiving. It's somehow we think we are perfect and everybody else around us is imperfect, not realizing that how much grace it took for you and I to have a right standing with God, but we don't dispense that to other people very well. I'm not picking on any individual person. I'm saying he Satan knows how to attack from the inside, and I gave a few of those examples last week. But we're going to try to transition. I've been harping on this mind to work, work, work, work. We need people to work right. The body of Christ is all about work. And I've had a few people stop me like I want to, but I don't know how. And I thought that's good, because if you don't hear the feedback, you don't know. So I'm gonna take a little bit of time and talk about that today, but I'm gonna start by talking about golf. It's cold out, beautiful golf weather out there right now, but anyway, back in the day, I used to golf. This is after high school. Martinsville used to have a great deals like \$13 on a Tuesday afternoon. I probably got the times and the dates wrong, but you understand what I'm saying, and I've never taken a lesson. And to be quite honest, I'm a terrible golfer, terrible. I've not golfed in years. And I bet if I went out there tomorrow, well, first of all, nobody's not there tomorrow, but if next time I go out, I'll probably shoot like a 130 and that'll be that. In fact, I tried to find the most colorful balls possible, because I was always hitting them into the bushes, and I wanted to feel like I was on the Easter egg hunt, because I surely wasn't putting up a good golf score. But I remember one time there was a backlog at smock and I'm getting ready to tee up. I'm with Bill Miller and Jim Burkett, and I'm just, I'm ready to go, and these people behind us. There's like, three cars, you know, on a busy day, how it gets and and mom said, Put the T up higher. Like, I don't even know this guy. It's like, okay, I know

what my score is. So I get up there, and I get back, and, man, I hit a beautiful shot straight down the fairway. I couldn't believe it. I pinched myself. And so it was, I mean, it was perfect, straight right down the middle. And I looked over at them with wide eyes, and they're like, you're welcome, no charge. And that's the whole time I would go golfing, is for that one shot, because the rest of them were like, hitting them over here into the woods or in the water and losing them. And I just thought about this, and I was like, You know what this is? Kind of what's like sharing the gospel, if you never do it, or if you don't know how to you're not in the Word of God, then it can be a little intimidating, like getting on that golf course, and when you're a terrible golfer, right? But then some people are really, really good golfers, and they've got their technique down, and they've been in the driving range. They got the right clubs. And those people are really comfortable, and they shoot really good scores. And Kenny Arthur still would run circles around me, I'm sure, on a golf course, right? Huh? You would, you both. You two would absolutely so the difference is, the more you practice anything, the more comfortable you get with it, and then it feels really natural. So I'm like, why don't we do that with the gospel? That's part of the reason why it's so uncomfortable to us. We don't share it. You're hoping that you bring somebody and I'll share it. But really, the healthy church is all about you being empowered, you going and being ambassadors, you getting them safe. Saved, and this should all be about us edifying the body of Christ together on a Sunday morning. This really shouldn't just be about, ah, bring all your lost friends and let the guy, bald guy up front, give him the gospel. Really, the healthy part is we are doing what God has called us to do, and we are ambassadors. And I know it can be scary. I remember the first person I led to the Lord, and I shared this a couple years ago when Pastor let me come up here, but it was a girl by the name of Erica. It was at Emmanuel, and I was so nervous, I think I tried to talk her out of it. I mean, we were on the phone, and I just was expecting her to say, No, I don't want to do this. But she kept saying yes, and at that point, I'm like, Whoa, what'd I do now, trying to remember how I got saved, and, oh, well, say this prayer and repeat after me. And I was so nervous, and I said, You got to come to church Sunday. And she was fine, I'll come, seriously. Okay, you're gonna come. And then I remember, I immediately ran and found the youth pastor. And I was like, talk to her. I'm sure I messed it up, but she wants to be saved. And I was like, somebody else double check my work, and then when, when I afterwards, I'll never forget when he came up to me and he's like, No, he did it right. And the confidence that gave me, and it wasn't about a prayer or anything like that, but she heard the gospel clearly and she believed. So it kind of starts with us. We're thinking about kind of a practical guide of doing the work. We've been talking about doing the work. So what are some tips? What are some pro tips for us to get out there and share the Gospel? What are some things that can help us? It starts with us. First of all, realizing it is your responsibility. What's said on the wall? Who will have all men to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth? So often I hear, I just want God's will for my life. I want to be in God's will. I want to do God's will. This is God's overarching will to see all men saved and come to knowledge of the truth. You want to get busy doing something and doing God's will, share the gospel and then find those who get saved and start growing them in the doctrine. Is anybody doing it? Okay, alright, whoo, God, this is tough today. I thought people thaw out by now, but there's some icy hearts up in here. The second part of this is the question that we should be asking as believers. Is like, God, you loved us. You wanted us to not deal with all the things on this earth, because we're going to be with you in heaven for all eternity. So why, when you saved us, did you leave us here to suffer, to go to funerals, to bury our friends and and to see loved ones pass before us and to get fired from jobs right? To go through messy divorces and to have kids who don't love us, right? Is this why we were left here? You were left here for a specific reason. Second, Corinthians, 5:18, through 20. Says. It says all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given us the body of Christ, the ministry of reconciliation. We've all been given a job. You've been given the ministry of reconciliation, and furthermore, you were given the word of reconciliation. In verse 19, it says, To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us. We pray you, in Christ's stead, be reconciled to God. You are an ambassador who's been given the

ministry of reconciliation to see all men saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. And if you've heard that exact phrasing before, then you've listened. I've told you why God has left you here. More importantly, God has told you, we get so busy chasing everything else, and it's all wood stay it's wood and it's stubble, it's hay, it's going to burn up. What are we doing for eternity? You were left here for that specific reason. And I think it's important to know that if that gospel is going to go out today, it's going to go out because of us. It's this gospel first, Corinthians, 15, one through four. It is the hope of the world. This is Paul talking about sharing this gospel. He says, Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also 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. Here it is For I delivered unto you first of all, 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, the first thing when. We're going to go through some of these kind of pro tips, if you will. But it is your responsibility. It is my responsibility. It is everyone who is in the body of Christ is an ambassador, and you've been given this responsibility. There are no passes. There are no hey, this is somebody else's job. If we keep doing that, none of us will ever be equipped. None of us will ever share it. I kind of think that's what Satan wants. He wants you to be so terrified to have any conversation like that with anybody that you'll think the only guy that can do it is the guy up front. What if there is no guy up front? What then you still have the same job to do. And there's ways we can do this. I say the first thing is start with prayer. Do you really pray about seeing souls saved? Do you pray about the gospel going forward, do you pray that that God will bring people your way, or that God will change your heart towards people that want to hear it first? Timothy two, one and two, I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life and all godliness and honesty that leads right into the verse on the walls, praying for others that have that opportunity, and praying for others in places you'll never go. Praying for Dean in South Africa, that the that the gut, that the gospel would go forward like Colossians, four, three and Paul's prayer request to the Colossians, praying also for us that God would open us a door of utterance to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I also am in bonds. His prayer request to the Colossians wasn't for him to be taken out of jail. It was that I can keep doing the thing that put me in jail, because it's the most important thing that I would have the opportunity to utter the mystery of Christ to people around me. Pray that most of the time we're like, God, get me out of this difficult situation. Maybe it's a mission field for you. Maybe it's an opportunity to share the gospel, but we'd rather just get out of our difficulties. Paul says, I'm in prison. I'm not praying for deliverance of that I'm praying that I would have opportunity to share the gospel while I'm here. Second, Thessalonians, three, one, Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of Lord may have free. Course. Has that been your prayer? Ephesians, 6:18, through 20, Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching there unto all perseverance and supplication for all saints. But listen to what he says here and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in bonds, for therein I may speak boldly as I ought to speak. I mean, maybe if you're going to be on social media, maybe look for those tea leaves. Look for people who are talking about how bad their life is. Reach out to them. I wouldn't comment on that feed. I would send a DM to them. Say, Hey, I saw what you posted. And how can I pray for you? Maybe there's somebody in high school that doesn't know who you are. Now, I'm going to a funeral today, right after service, and I was a little nervous earlier in the week, because I'm like, Man, these people, the only version of me, these people know from 30 years ago, not a guy that would be standing up here. I mean, it'd be more likely to be a guy who's already been with Marty and been fitted for a suit and put in a box. But the reality is, I'm like, No, I want to go. I want to I want to be able to go. And I want to be able to point them to why I'm different, why I'm not who I was, to give them that hope. But with that, it's going to probably come some embarrassment. People want to share a story or two or remembering what I did in high school, or different things like that, but the gospel is more important than those distractions. And there's times I might have to say, yep, but God, but we look for opportunities and praying for

opportunities. We don't just sit there and say, it's somebody else's job. So you want to pray, but pray doesn't absolve you from action. So then the second part is, you want to live your life as an ambassador. This is a big part, guys. It's not about legalism, it's not about being under the law. But trust me, you're offering somebody something different, and you look just like the world. Why do they want to listen? I firmly believe, since our works have nothing to do with our salvation, but they have everything to do with our witness, they really do and may. Me, watch what you're putting on social media, watch what you're sharing, watch what you're participating in at work. Maybe there's times when a joke's being said or something rude said about a woman, and you walk the other way and don't sit and participate in it. Maybe quoting certain movies that are raunchy isn't the best, right? If what you're doing in your liberty can cause somebody else to stumble or maybe never, ever hear the Gospel, because you became such a distraction. Was it worth it? Colossians, four, five and six says, Walk in wisdom towards them that are without redeeming. The time says, Let your speech be always with grace, season with salt, that you may know how to answer every man, even Titus 2:11, and 12, as it talks about grace, says, the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us, denying ungodliness and worldly lust, that we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. Not only are you an ambassador, but grace teaches us how to live godly in this present world. Are you? Because I promise you, the way you live can either be a gateway to the gospel or it can be a distraction, absolutely but even living a godly life doesn't absolve you from taking action. We have to be willing to engage and share the gospel, and there's different ways to be able to do this second. Timothy, 4:2 says, preach the Word. Be instant, in season out of season. Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. Even Peter understood this principle when he says in First Peter 3:15 as he's talking to the kingdom church, right, he says, sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you of the reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear, you may be in a coffee shop and see somebody reading a Bible. That's a great opportunity to go talk to them. I think about that's like a Philip approach, right? I think going up to those people like Acts 8:30 when Philip ran thither to the Ethiopian eunuch, he heard him read the prophet Esaias, which is Isaiah, and said, understand us what thou readeest. What a great opportunity. Somebody's already in the Word of God. Sit down. Hey. Do you mind if I talk to you for a moment? I'm just curious. Do you really understand what you're reading? I'm not trying to be condescending, but there's a lot in that book. Start a conversation. Look for opportunities. And I wanted to basically finish with this. The best tool that you have is your own story, your testimony. You may say, Oh, I don't got a great testimony. I wasn't saved out of drugs, or I wasn't saved out of this. Mike, wait a second, every one of you in here has an amazing testimony, because absolutely none of you could have ever got to God by yourself. It took you placing your faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ, to have a right standing with God. That means that the only reason any of us can stand before God is his grace, not you and not your story. And are you willing to tell other people? Hey, I had no hope. Yeah, that's part of everybody's story. In here, I was lost. I had no hope. I was headed straight to hell because I'm a sinner, don't we all share that story, and the only reason I can stand before you today telling you about the hope that I have in heaven is because of what Christ did on the cross, when He shed His precious blood, and then he was buried and rose again three days later, and the Lord said, as long as you'll place a faith in what I've provided, you'll receive that gift. You have eternal life. Let me tell you my story. Paul did this. Paul brings his testimony up several times. He always used it as a point to point people to how he was different and what makes him different. It's kind of long, but in Acts 22, three through 10, he says, I am, verily a man, which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, the city of Cilicia, brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous towards God as you are all this day, and I persecuted this way unto the death, binding, delivering into prisons both men and women, as also the high priest doth bear me witness and also the estate of the elders, from whom also I received letters unto the brethren and went to Damascus and to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem for to be punished. He's saying, This is what I used to be. This is what I used to do. But then he says it came to

pass as I made my journey and was come nigh into Damascus of Graham. I love this about noon. Very specific. About noon, suddenly they're shown. From heaven, a great light round about me, and I fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And I answered, Who art thou Lord? And he said, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. And they that were with me saw indeed the light and were afraid, but they heard not the voice then that spoke to me, and I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the LORD said unto me, Arise and go into Damascus. And there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. He tells it there. He says it in Acts. 26 later, summarizes it in First Timothy 115 through 16, where he says, this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation Christ, Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause, I obtained mercy that in me, first, Jesus, Christ might show forth all long suffering for a pattern me, first pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. Use your story. Don't be ashamed of the fact that you placed your faith in the death, burial, resurrection of Jesus Christ, and you now have eternal life. Why would you button that up? And a great question to ask so you don't fall into the trap of somebody saying they say they're a Christian. Don't have to talk to them, check the box. A great question is, if you were to die tomorrow and stand before God and he asked you, why should I let you in? What do you say when you do get those opportunities? Ask an open ended question so that you can know what work you need to do. Well, I was baptized when I was five years old. You know where you need to take him in Scripture, right? Well, I just hope that when I stand before God one day that my good works outweigh my bad works, then you know where to go in Scripture. Ephesians, 289, Titus, three, five, but if you don't ask an open ended question, you're going to get an answer like, I'm a Christian. What does that mean? I'm saved. What does that mean? I believe in God. What does that mean today? What God? Leave some tracks tip. Well, if you're going to do that, it's a real you become a distraction. If you don't but leave tracks. Do whatever you can. And I want to close with this. I know I know I went a little bit over. I got a little passionate, sorry about that, even if you share, just know there will, there's going to be times like Agrippa with Paul. Paul shares this great testimony, and Agrippa says, Thou almost persuaded me to be a Christian. You almost got me, and you'll be devastated. You'll be frustrated, because somehow, through the process, you will have think you did something wrong. Let me remind you to close this. We hope you received the blessing out there today's service. However, we would love to have you visit with us in person. For more information, please visit our website at GP indy.net, or contact us by phone at 317-535-3512, for more options on demand. On the way, it'll be up to someone else by sharing the gospel, even if you've done it 1000 times and no one has ever said, Yes, you may be planting and someone else may water, and it's God who will give the increase. You may not know till you get to heaven, but you were faithful doing what God left you here to do. Verse seven says, Neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase. Now, as we wrap up and pray and get you guys out of here today, I know it's cold, but use the resources, the hobbies, the passions that are at your fingertips as ways to create relationships, to share the gospel. Maybe strangers might be kind of difficult for you, but there are people who are in your life who will give you time, but you've got to be courageous enough to ask for it, and then you've got to be bold enough to share the gospel. And one of the best ways to do it is just say, Hey, I just want to tell you why I believe what I believe that's pretty non threatening to them. I love you enough. I want you to know why I make the choices that I make, why Sundays are so important, or why this church means so much to me, why the Bible means so much to me. I was lost on my way to hell, and I realized I had no hope. But I heard, trusted and believed that God sent Jesus to die on the cross for my sins, and that He was buried shed His precious blood on Calvary, and that blood was sufficient to wash away all my sins, and that He was buried in. Three days later, rose again. He wasn't just a good man who died. He was the God man. And God said, If I will place my faith in that alone, I will have eternal life. And immediately, I was sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, and I now have a heavenly hope. I wanted to share with you why that's important to me, that should be pretty easy to do. And if you want to use your social media right now, good luck. But if you want to, why not post that? Are you worried you might lose a few friends? What might heaven gain? I just want to encourage you today,

you are supposed to do the work. It's not just me, it's each and every one of us. We're ambassadors. Let's get to the point we're doing the work through the week, and we're bringing everybody in to edify them and grow them on Sundays and on Wednesdays and in the body of Christ as we congregate together, let's get them to come to this gospel of grace message, and let's get them to grow in this gospel of grace. Doctrine, come to grace. Grow in grace. Make it simple so you'll understand it. Imma have everybody Stan we're going to pray. Now. I don't know how we're going to do this part. Might just think Larry my place the better half. Alright, I'm going to have everybody bow their heads right now. And if today you want to, you got questions about salvation, you've been saved recently, but you want to know what's next? How do you grow in grace? Or if you've just got a question about what it means to come be a part of what we're doing here. At Grace point, we'd love to have you come forward. We got a couple guys up front who are willing to talk to you. Don't feel obligated. We want to give you this opportunity. And I'm going to go ahead and pray. You can even hop out now while I'm praying, and make your way up there if you wanted to. Rachel's going to sing, and then I'll dismiss.