

Hey man, you may be seated.

Right.

If you want to raise your hand, you all
know her, you can go ahead and be
dismissed and you'll walk down the aisle.

Just meet her in the back and she's going
to take you to the Chapel.

And Lizzie's parents will pick up at the
Chapel, correct? So after the service,
parents? Get your kids first, then come
back and chat with everybody, but make
sure you grab your kids after the

service. Alright, well we're going to go
ahead and get into today's sermon. I hope
you all had a wonderful Christmas and

just a good new year. I don't know about

you guys, but every time the year turns
over and I come and do a. Brand New
Year, I do find myself experiencing just
a big sense of optimism. Like there's so
many good things that can happen.

Inevitably there's going to be hard
things, but there's so much possibility.
And I know all the cliches about making

New Year's resolutions and how they all fall away, and there is some truth to that. Like I went to the gym on January 2nd, it was packed. I guarantee you it will not be packed on February 2nd. It happens every single year. You just wade through it and it goes away. There is some truth to that, but I also think there's a certain amount of power in coming up with, hey, here are new habits that I'm going to be implementing. In this upcoming year. So here's what I do in my own life when we come to when when a new year comes around, I think to myself, what are the two or three? Not ten, not 20, That'd be overwhelming. That would never happen. But what are just the two or three habits that if I implement, if I make these changes? They're going to have the absolute biggest, most positive impact, and those are the things that I try to do. So I'll share with you what they are for me this year. The first one is I'm going to be reading through the

Bible sequentially for one year now. I spend a lot of time studying Scripture, but because I'm teaching different sermons and leading Bible studies and whatnot. Them off and moving around to different parts of scripture. And I thought to myself, man, it's been a minute since I've just like read the whole thing. So I'm going to be going through the one year Bible reading. Shout out to Jeff Gomer who did that last year. He's probably doing it again this year.

And he was a big help with that. And then my daughter Thea and I, we're going to be reading through it together. So that's something that will keep us both on track. I'm going to be working on my sleep schedule. It's not the getting apparently that's hard. It's the going to bed on time that is. It's like, darn, you're impossible. Good friend of mine, Alan Briggs, he used to say the bet a good day always begins with going to bed on time the night before. And boy, is he

ever right. And so I am just bound and determined for four to five days a week.

Bed on time and then up early so I can just get started. First thing I do in the morning is sermon prep. You just get up, have your quiet time with the Lord and start working on it and progress happens quickly that way. And then the last thing is this, and this really affects you

all's a church is this year. I want to really press into just building.

Relationships with you all in the church.

I think especially as a new pastor, your first couple years in the church, it's so easy to get focused on the massive To Do List. It's like, ohh man, we got

ministries that need to be revamped.

There's projects that need to be worked on. There's a never ending list of things. With our this wonderful building, we've been blessed with that. We just fixed thing after thing after thing.

There's websites that need to be built. We're working on our church app. There's

spiritual formation groups that need to
be started. And sometimes what can happen
is I get so caught up in everything
that's going on and the strategy and
where we're going. We're going to be in
one year, three years, five years that I
have to slow down. Just remember, hey
Seth, me talking to myself, just relax
man and just enjoy being their pastor.

And I really appreciate you all, the
church body, because when I forget that,
then some of you out of love, come to me
and say, hey, Seth, you might want to
just relax a little bit and enjoy being
our pastor. And so that's going to be a
big push for me this year is investing
deeply into the relationships that I have
with you all. And. The flip side of that,
allowing you to invest deeply into your
relationship with me and just enjoy being
a church family. It was such a good.

Reminder this week with everything that
TR and Ava went through and going to the
hospital multiple times and everything,

it's just a reminder like this is part of
the reason the church exists for moments
like these. And when you see a family
going through that type of crisis, all
that side stuff that I just talked about
doesn't, it doesn't really matter in
those moments. The important thing is the
people. So that's going to be a big push
for myself this year. There's more to
follow. I do have some specific ways that
I want to do that and we'll be talking
about those coming up in the following
weeks. Alright, well, that's the whole
year. Let's zoom in just a little bit and
talk about where we're headed as a church
for the next quarter and then just for
the month of January, so. The big focus
this quarter is the 100 days of prayer. I
think everybody's tracking what that is
by this point. If not, we're partnering
with our sister church, The Way Church
Kansas City, who's a part of the Kansas
City, KS Baptist Association. Many of you
saw Zach, their lead pastor, come here

and preach one Sunday, the last Sunday in January, I'm going to preach over at his church. But we are partnering with them to pray together for 100 days and we're praying for one thing and one thing only, and that is that God will bring revival to Kansas City, something that every single revival and spiritual awakening in history, at least as long as it's been documented. Has in common is they were always preceded by prayer and Jesus himself says hey, you don't have because you did not ask. And as I started to realize why is this not happening here? Perhaps the reason is we just didn't ask. So we're asking for 100 days. We have the website where people can go to and they can sign up for specific prayer. Lots throughout those 100 days. It's pretty much in charge of the website. But he called me the other day and he said, hey, good news, man. We have somebody that people sign up to pray every single day for those 100 days

between our two churches. So I think that deserves a round of applause. That's a wonderful thing.

And I've had people reach out to me like, hey, I wanna register for the same time slot every single day going forward. I

wish the website was more advanced. I

don't think you can do that. You'll just

have to go in and manually do it. But

that's a good thing. And we also have

moved our prayer time from 8:15 all the

way to 9:30. I was in there for about 15

minutes. This morning, if you want to

pray, we're gonna meet at 9:30 in the

little room right behind the welcome desk

here, right out here in the lobby, and

we're going to be praying for revival

during that time. There will also be a

couple times during this 100 days where

we'll get together as churches, like not

the whole church, but whoever wants to

come to pray together as God's, as the

body of Christ for revival. In the city.

Alright, so that's the quarter. Now let's

back it up to January. Today is a standalone sermon. We're going to be talking about living out the gospel and what that means. Next week. This could change, but as of right now, I'm planning

198
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to do a financial update of the church on

199
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the church. Basically a quick overview of the biblical view of finances and then

how we ended the years of church and what we're looking at. Going forward, it's really important that we do that, not just to know where we are as a church, but for those of you who have read through the gospels, and I know many of you have, you know that Jesus talks about money, wealth, finances, how we understand and approach money and wealth finances all the time. Like if you just talk through the Gospels. Be talking about money like every 3rd week. That's how often he comes back to it because it's a big part of our lives and oftentimes what we're doing with our

money is a direct reflection of what is going on in our hearts. Then the next Sunday after that, January 18th will be a special Sunday. I hope you all can be here for it. It will not be sermon centric, instead it's going to be. More value. I wanna call it celebration Sunday because there's no blow UPS. We won't be hitting each other with we won't be doing what's it called? Or you go battle out in the blow up arena, which is a shame because I wanted to take tie down for some reason. I didn't get a chance to last year, but we'll get our time eventually. Last time will hint brought me down and I was like God, he was so proud of it. Next time. But we are going to just have a special Sunday together as a church family. We are going to be introducing the senior leadership team that you all elected at the end of last year. And you'll be meeting them. You know them, but you'll be seeing specifically who they are. You'll be

hearing a little bit more about them.

You're going to be meeting Adam Collins.

Adam is already around. You'll see him.

Coming around over the next few weeks, he

is our new pastoral intern. So myself and

the and the personnel committee, just to

be clear, not just me, but me and the

personnel committee have been working

hand in hand over the last several

months. And Midwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary, they have this

program where they partner with all these

different SBC churches. The city and

basically they will send out students who

are working on their seminary degrees to

do internships. So they're not employees

of the church, they're just interns. And

it's great because it helps the students

get ready for full time ministry. Like my

last year of seminary, I did an

internship at the church I attended. And

then of course it helps the churches and

that they have an intern. Coming and

helping him in different areas. So Adam,

you'll get to know him that day and he is going to be helping in a lot of different areas, but his area of expertise is youth. And so he's going to be helping specifically with our youth. And he was down there already this Sunday. And then very lastly that day, it will be a bit of a bittersweet day because we will also be saying goodbye. To Aaron Mcnutt, Aaron has been a wonderful blessing. I have enjoyed working with him every day. He is one of the nicest guys, but also one of the best worship leaders I've ever worked with. And so Aaron is going to be here through the last Sunday in January, but I wanted to make sure we bid him for one on the 18th because I wouldn't be there the week after that. And he's got some.

Family things going on, His father's experiencing some serious health issues, and so the right decision for him was to step aside. What are we gonna do for worship after that? We're gonna pray and ask. We're gonna trust God. It's gonna

work out just fine, so don't worry about it. Ask the Lord. He's gonna take care of us. OK, so that's what's coming down the pipe. Let's go ahead and get into the sermon. Today, today's sermon is titled Living the Gospel, Living the Gospel, and here's what we're going to talk about today. We're going to talk about it through. I'll get to that in a minute.

Here's what we're going to talk about though. What is the gospel? What is it? Is it something that just happens at a moment in time? It is. Is it an event where you put your faith in Jesus Christ? And that's the gospel. Or is it something that continues long after that initial moment of salvation? So I want you to grab your Bibles. And we are going to turn to the passage that Carol read for us. We are going to be in Colossians chapter 1, and I'm going to start up in verse 9. We're going to read down through verse 14. Colossians chapter 1 starting up in verse

9. Paul writes

this to the Church of Colossae. This is
one of the best known prayers in the
New Testament, he says. And so from the
day we heard, we have not ceased to
pray for you, asking that you may be
filled with the knowledge of His will in
all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

So as to walk in a manner
worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to
Him, bearing fruit in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God.

May you be strengthened with all power
according to His glorious might, for all
endurance and patience with joy, giving
thanks to the Father. Who has qualified
you to share in the inheritance of the
Saints in light and pay special attention
to these next two verses. He has

delivered us from the domain of darkness
and transferred us to the Kingdom of His
beloved Son, and whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins. Let me read
those. Last two verses, one more

time. He has delivered us from

the domain of darkness and transferred

us to the Kingdom of His

beloved Son, in whom we have

redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Now here's the question I want us to

focus on.

What is Paul

talking about?

What is he referring to when he prays

this incredible prayer and then he makes

this statement over the church at

Colossae. And if it's over the believers

there, the statement can just as well be

made over believers here or over

believers anywhere throughout all times

in history. Paul saying here's what God

through Jesus has done. He has delivered

us from the Kingdom, the domain. To the

Kingdom of Satan, and he's moved us, He's

transferred us into the Kingdom of his

beloved Son. What is he referring to and

what does that have to do with living

out the Gospel?If you

were here on Christmas Eve, we did a little bit of a different service. We did an interactive reading through Scripture. We started in Genesis and we moved through the Old Testament into the New Testament and the birth of Christ. Lizzie Bishop or minister of family life, she would read passages and I would add some commentary to them and the reason that we did it. That way is I wanted you all to see the story of Scripture and how even from the very beginning in Genesis, the whole Bible is moving towards and is centering upon the person of Jesus Christ. It's anticipating him coming and then it's anticipating his return. And I got so much good.

Feedback from that service, and it was the type of feedback that I wanna get. Not like, ohh, you're great, everything like that. But I was just like, man, I really understand the story better. Like, ohh, that makes more sense. I see now how starting in Genesis, the whole thing is

moving towards the person of Christ. So

here's what I'm gonna do this morning.

We're gonna go through the story again,

but this time we're gonna go through a

little bit of a different lens. We're

gonna go through it through a Kingdom

lens, because that's the language Paul is

using, the Kingdom of his beloved son.

And I want you all to see how from the

very beginning, the stories begin set

up of. That there are two kingdoms at

work in this world. Alright, so

you don't need to follow along. You can

just put your Bibles down and relax and

listen for a few minutes because we're

gonna start all the way back at Genesis,

chapter one, verse one. And as you get to

the very beginning of the Bible, here's

what you see. You see that? All reality,

every created thing, all living

creatures. Come from and emanate

from and depend upon

an all powerful, all

knowing, beautiful, eternal God.

And as the story opens up, we
see that earth is nothing more than
this lifeless, chaotic, watery void. And
what God does is all knowing, eternal
God is He reaches down into that
chaos and he brings out of the
order, and he brings life and he
brings. Beauty. So God creates, that's
Genesis chapter 1 and two he creates. He
separates the waters below from the
waters above. He fills the earth with
life, the fish, the birds, the animals.
And then as you keep reading through the
chapters, you see that he leaves the
crown of his creation until the very
last, the 6th day. Before he rests
God in the 6th day, he
creates Adam and Eve, human beings
because we all came from them.
He creates Adam and Eve, and
these creatures are different, they're
special, and the Bible describes it
this way because they are made
in God's own. Image.

I think a good way to understand that is this. When God made human beings, he imprinted part of himself onto us. And so that means what separates humans from animals? How are we different our intelligence? Our creativity.

Our ability to take things that are chaotic and disorderly and make them into something that's useful for life. Even these bodies that God has given us, these wonderful hands like you ever seen your dog try to open a can of dog food? Ain't gonna happen, man. He has no, he has no fingers. But we do. Even our bodies, God has made us in his. Image and don't miss this. And he gave human beings a job. And in essence, here's the job that he gave to us. He said, hey, Adam and Eve and all who will come from you, I want you to do what I do. You were made in my image, and I want you to do what I do. I want you to fill the earth

with life. I want you to
use your God-given intelligence and
creativity and problem solving ability
and ability for complex language. All the
gifts I've given you that reflect my
image, I want you to use it to
fill the earth with life, to harness the
resources of the earth, and to make this
new place where life will thrive and
grow. God gives them
a job. And essentially what he's saying
to Adam and Eve is this I
want you human beings to be an
extension of my ruling authority in my
good world. Do what I do, rule
and reign on my behalf in this
good world, the Kingdom. That I have made
and I've given the ability to do it.

And for a time. All was
well. But as you read
through the rest of the Bible, you find
out that human beings are not the only
intelligent creatures that God has made.

We are physical creatures, but there are

also spiritual creatures. Spiritual beings. We know them as angels and scripture talks about how 1 Angel he has so many different names, some called Lucifer, some called the Morning Star.

One specific Angel was special. He

had incredible beauty, he had immense

power and he was highly esteemed

amongst the heavenly host. And what

eventually happened to Lucifer is that

his heart became proud and he

decided that he wanted to use

his God. Human abilities, his beauty,

his abilities, his power not to

serve God, but rather he wanted

to be God. He wanted to

usurp God's throne and become God

himself. Lucifer failed, he was cast

out of heaven and all his followers were

cast out with him. Now what happens next?

He comes down to earth and he comes

down with one intention. And

here was Satan's intention. Since he

couldn't be God in heaven, that could not

be his Kingdom, he came to earth saying,

I will take this world, God's good world,

his Kingdom, where human beings are, and

I will make it my Kingdom. If I

can't be king there and I can't be

God there, I will be God.

Year. So how's he gonna do it?

He goes to Adam and Eve and you

read about this in Genesis chapter 3 and

he don't miss this. He tempts them to

do exactly what he did.

That's the temptation, he says. Hey,

human beings. Forget about God.

Take the gift that God has

given you, that intelligence, creativity,

even the physical bodies, the problem

solving abilities, the complex language.

Take all those things that reflect

His image. Take those things and

use them for yourself.

Instead of building His Kingdom, use them

to build your own kingdoms, and instead

of having those kings be in His image

and likeness, have your kingdoms be in

your own image and likeness. Decide for yourselves what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is evil in a very real way. Become God's unto yourselves.

Adam and Eve believed Satan's lie. They took the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They said, God, we don't trust you, we don't need you. They rebelled against their creator, the very person on whom life depended upon, and they attempted to become their own gods. Now here's what happened.

Church, do not miss this if you understand what I'm about to say so much.

The Bible will make sense. In fact, if you understand what I'm about to say, so much of reality will make sense. As you look around the world and you start to form your worldview through a biblical lens, you'll say, ohh, I understand what's going on.

When Adam and Eve believed Satan's lie and attempt, they attempted to

become their own gods. They fell

prey to the great deception.

The great lie that human beings have been

blind to and have been living under ever

since. And here's the great deception.

Here's what they missed when they listen

to Satan's words. When Adam and

Eve attempted to be their own gods and

build their own kingdoms, listen Church,

they were never building their own

kingdoms. All they were doing

was building Satan's Kingdom.

That is the great lie that is implanted

into the human mind as we attempt to

build our own kingdoms and our own power

and an influence at the expense of

others. As we take from others so that we

may have more, we think we're building

our own area of influence. This is my

spot, my Kingdom, All we're doing, all

we're doing. Is building Satan's Kingdom.

And as you look around the world and you

see all the different empires, cities,

nations, tribes, people, groups. And as

you see those empire, cities and nations,
tribes and people groups taking from
others, building their own at the expense
of others. They're actually just
building Satan's Kingdom.

Here's the biblical picture set up from
the very beginning. There are only two
kingdoms in this world. Just two. There's
the Kingdom of God, and there's the
Kingdom of Satan. And every
single human being is in one
Kingdom or the other.

So what's God going to do? You
keep reading through the Bible, God says.
Here's what I'm going to do. I'm going
to send my son.

Who is of the same being in
essence, and therefore is God. And I'm
going to send him into that Kingdom
of darkness, into the world with human
beings completely deceived by Satan and
living in darkness under his lies. I'm
going to send him into that Kingdom
of darkness. And when he goes, he

will become. The second atom, we're
the first atom, failed and gave
in to Satan's temptation. Jesus triumphed
over Satan's temptation. God
says through my son Jesus, he will model
for them what it means to live as a
citizen of my Kingdom. That's why we
pattern our lives after Jesus's life. He
will show them how human beings were
meant to live. In fact, you could put it
this way, He will show them what it means
to be truly human. He
will model for them. This is how a
citizen of the Kingdom of God lives.

And in the greatest act of love
in history, he will voluntarily lay down
his life for them. And his victory
over the spiritual forces of evil won't
come through power and aggression of and
force. Instead it will come through self
sacrificing love. And when Jesus
died on the cross for our sins, this
is what happened. Jesus once and for all
dealt with the problem of sin.

You go back to the Old Testament and you

see the whole Old Testament sacrificial

system. And then you go read the book of

Hebrews and you find out that all those

animals that were being killed again and

again and again, the writer of Hebrew

says they never had the power to take

away sin. In fact, they

just became a continual reminder of sin

because as people kept sinning and

sinning and sinning, animals kept having

to die and die and die, until

eventually the one true Lamb of God

came into this world, and through His

sacrifice he dealt with sin. And its

source and its very source, he dealt with

it. That is why when you get to

Romans chapter 6, it says, wouldn't you

become a Christian, a new creation? You

are then delivered from the power of sin.

You're not under ***** to it anymore.

You are free. Because through Christ

he has that power, because he's dealt

with sin at its source, and as he

was raised from the dead, he conquered
death so that all who came through him
would be able to have true eternal life.

That's the picture set up in
the New Testament, that Jesus, through
His Son, opens the way for
us to come into His Kingdom
through His Son. Now grab your
Bibles, go to Mark.

We're going to go to the Gospel Mark, the
very first chapter. We've been here
before. We've spent a lot of time in Mark.

I want you to go to the Gospel of Mark
chapter 1, and you're gonna go down to
verse 14.

This is the very beginning of Jesus's
ministry. We're just going to read 2
verses here. Now, after
John was arrested, Jesus came into
Galilee listen, proclaiming the Gospel of
God. So if you've ever
wondered what is the gospel you're about
to hear from Jesus's mouth proclaiming
the gospel of God and saying the

time is fulfilled. And

the Kingdom of God is

at hand.

Repent. And believe in the

gospel.

He comes proclaiming the good news,

and here's the good news, Church.

The time is fulfilled and the

Kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent and believe in the Gospel.

In those verses, what we're seeing is

that when Jesus came into the darkness of

this world, then through the person of

Christ, God's Kingdom burst into that

darkness. And as Jesus moved

through this world and eventually his

followers empowered by the same Holy

Spirit that empowered him, God's Kingdom

is continuing to advance forward and

move, pushing back the darkness.

Transferring. God is working through

Christ and then through His church, which

is the very hands and feet of Jesus.

That's how we're described to continue

the work to transfer people from the
Kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of
His beloved Son.

Now let's talk about the gospel for a
minute. And why

the title of the sermon is Living the
Gospel? If I

ask the average Christian what is the
gospel message, I will probably get an
answer, something along these lines. He
or she will say, well, the gospel is that

Jesus, God's own Son, came into this
world, that he died on the cross for our
sins, that he was raised from the dead,
and that through him we can have eternal
life. And here's the

thing. That's correct. That is absolutely
correct. There's not one single thing in
there that I disagree with. I sure hope I
don't disagree with that. The
only problem, friends with that
explanation, is that's not all of
the gospel.

That's just the beginning of

the gospel.

That's why, as you read through the New

Testament, the New Testament doesn't

spend a ton of time talking about how

to become a Christian like that initial

moment of salvation. It's in there, for

sure, but way, way, way more ink is

devoted to describing what life looks

like after you become a Christian.

That's not all the gospel message. That's

just the beginning. The full

picture of the gospel. And that's why

Jesus says good news. The Kingdom of God

is at hand. That's why Paul says you've

been transferred from the domain or the

Kingdom of darkness into a new Kingdom.

The good news is this.

Through Christ you have become a new

creation and therefore you have become a

citizen of a new Kingdom.

And from there on out, the

rest of your life is doing

what you were originally made to

do. Think back to the garden.

What were human beings made for?

Using their abilities and their gifts

and their capabilities to rule and

reign. In God's Kingdom.

Church when you become a Christian.

Nothing changes in your original calling.

In fact it's far better to say you are

then returned to your reason for mate

that you were made. That's something I

love about being a pastor, seeing men and

women. This does not at all mean that you

work in ministry. The only people who

work in ministry are the weirdos that God

calls to this specific line of work.

That's it. I'm here says God said you

will be a pastor. I'm like, but, but, but

he's like quiet. You'll be a pastor. And

that was the end of that conversation.

But one of the wonderful things I love

about being a pastor, seeing men and

women of God use their gifts, use their

abilities, use their business acumen,

their ability to be a great mom, staying

at home, raising kids, whatever God has

called you to in this world. And that
then becomes Kingdom work because you and
the specific area of. Influence that God
has given you in your circle. He is using
you as light in that dark place.

And just like you did through Jesus, and
now he does through Jesus's church, the
hands of feet in Christ, He works through
us to move forward His Kingdom until
eventually Christ returns.

The gospel isn't something that just
happens at a moment in time, and it's
not an event like that moment of
salvation. The gospel is something that
you continue to live out in all its
fullness long after, actually for
eternity, after you initially become a
Christian.

Now I want to show you guys in the time
that we have before we come to the
communion table. Why
that matters that we understand this as
a church. I don't want to just
explain it, I want to visually show

it to you. We must

get this church. We must understand.

That's why our entire purpose statement

as a church, it's not something pithy

that myself and the senior leadership

team came up with. It's just a

description of our God-given

responsibility. Who are we? We're

apprentices of Jesus, we're followers of

him. What do we do? We bring God's

Kingdom. Where? Right to where He put us,

right on this corner, Prairie Village,

Mission Overland Park, that is our area.

We bring His Kingdom to our community.

That is who we are. Biblically. We are

apprentices of Jesus, bringing God's

Kingdom to our community and church.

We've got to be on mission. And

I want to show you why. Let's go and put

up the first slide.

This is a picture that I took of a banner

that is hanging right over there in D108

and I realize it's a little hard to read

so you can go look at it afterwards, but

let me walk you through this real quick.

Lucky for you, I found a laser pointer,

so this will get a lot easier. This is a

picture and it's a really good picture.

Of the story, the Bible, everything that

we just talked about. So what here we

see, the story begins, we see God

creating, we see God delivers. This is

the exodus, the promised land, a Kingdom

established. This is the nation of

Israel. When they finally come into the

promised land, and especially through

David and then Solomon, you just see the

full picture. Everything that Israel was

meant to become, the prophets and kings

and the exile. The rescue begins. Jesus

comes into the world, Jesus's ministry,

the church's mission. This is the book of

Acts. And then you get letters to God's

people, which is basically Acts 2 all the

way through to the end of the Bible.

This is it. This is a

simplified, excellent picture of all 66

books of the Bible. Now think about that

for a minute with me, Church. God in
all his wisdom. He decided that
human beings, this is what I want you to
know, this is what I will communicate to
you through my inspired word. And it's
all contained here. Not every word of it,
but picture. Let's get it back up here in
a second. The story begins all
the way through to Letters to God's
people. Now here's what I want to get
Church. We are in this story.

Where are we in this story? Let's go
to the next slide.

Right there.

We're in this right now. We are living
this story. And we
are in it right here.

Which is the very last
part.

There's only one thing left that the
Bible talks about, and that is Christ
returning. We
are in the final stages. We
are in the absolute last very

end chapters of the entire story

that scripture tells.

And I don't know when Christ is gonna

return, and neither do you, but it could

be as Scripture tells us at any time.

So here's what I want us to understand

now, and then we're gonna go to the

communion table.

We must. Have a

sense of urgency.

We must church, have

a sense of urgency.

We have a job to do.

And it's the job that God himself gave

to the big sea Church of Christ and

then gave to our little church said, you

know, all will be here and you will

might bring my Kingdom right where I've

resigned you on this little corner of

these three cities.

We must have a sense of urgency. There

just isn't time. And if we think that

there is tons of time, we're getting LAX.

There just isn't time to think. Ohh, we

got all the time in the world. We don't.

Now, that doesn't mean that we freak out
and panic and get all stressed out and
our blood pressure shoots through the
roof and all of a sudden everybody's
getting a little uptight. It also doesn't
mean that we take ourselves too
seriously. I won't help anything.

But it does mean that we
take the work seriously.

You don't take yourself too seriously,
but you better take the work seriously.

And it means church, that we have
to know the difference between things
that matter and things that don't.

Guess what? The color of this
carpet doesn't matter.

The color of these chairs? Kudos whoever
picked red, but it makes no difference.

There's so many things in church life
that they're necessary and we do need to
talk about them, but at the end of the
day, they don't really matter that much.

You know, it does matter, the mission.

And part of that mission is, even as
we've seen these last few days, showing
God's Kingdom to the members of the body
of Christ, to the people in that hospital.

We must have a sense of urgency.

Because this is a story. This is
all we know. And

we're right there.