

# SERMON TRANSCRIPT

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SPEAKER

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SERIES

Did God Really Say?

PART

8

TITLE

One Way to Heaven

SCRIPTURE

Romans 10:1-17



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Imagine a perfect world, a world without guilt, strife or sickness, a world where everything functioned in harmony. For a time, the world was at peace, diversity was appreciated and love was uninterrupted. This was God's beautiful design. God's critic, Satan, entered the story in desiring to destroy our confidence in God's word. He asked, "Did God really say?" Man began to question God's intentions for authority, humanity, race, sexuality, injustice. Out of love, and at the fullness of time, God sent Jesus into the world to rescue His beautiful design from sin. We simply won't flourish unless we yield and agree with God. The question remains, Did God Really Say?

Providence family, it's good to see you this morning. If you are a guest with us, we're thrilled that you've joined us. If you happen to be in the other room, just want to say thank you for being here. And if you are at home watching, we're also glad that you have tuned in. If you have a Bible, if you want to turn with me to Romans 10. Next week, let me just give you a heads-up where we're going next week. We start a new series next week and what we're going to look at is God handpicked, He sort of just chose throughout time, ordinary people just like you and me to do remarkable things in their life and they became a significant rescuer in the Bible. There's lots of stories where God uses somebody in order to save other people, in order to help other people.

And in every one of those cases what we're told is that there's some remarkable things to learn from their lives, but even more so is that how they rescued people was just a shadow of the reality of the ultimate rescuer to come. And so the series will be six weeks long. It's going to end on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the greatest rescuer of all, who is Jesus Christ. And we find in the Bible that when there is a famine of God's word in the land or when there's a spirit of pride in the hearts of the people, that God and His spirit and His movement in the people, oftentimes it's stymied that when there's a famine in the land of the word of God, it brings tremendous spiritual hunger. And when there is pride in the hearts, He says that He opposes the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.

And so it's critically important for us to constantly be working towards the abolishment within our own hearts of a famine of God's word in our own heart and pride, and prayer happens to be one of those languages where it just demonstrates humility. And so what we did is to help us prepare our hearts and the hope that the famine of God's word would go away within each one of us. Pride within our heart is that it would be set aside in each one of us, that God would be able to do and would do remarkable things of transformation in our heart, in our relationships, in our four folks that we're praying for that they would come to faith in Christ is we put together a little notebook. It's free and it's in the back. And I would encourage you to pick one up. What it does is it helps us to read a little bit of the story of each of these rescuers.

This is going to start tomorrow. Okay? So it's going to be in Noah is the first rescuer, so we'll actually walk through his story next week in the sermon. But before we get there, we want to encourage you to read the story. Every page is a day and on each page what you're going to find is not only what to read in His word, but a few thoughts about those words, God's words. And then you're going to find a little prayer guide in there

so that we can be praying as a church family in unison about some things that are really important that we find in the word and we find in our own hearts, in our land. And so I would encourage you to pick one up and participate, but this morning we finish our series, Did God Really Say. If you happen to be new with us, we've been looking at God's plans for life.

We've been looking at what happens when we reject those plans and there's deep confusion and pain in our lives, our homes, and in the whole culture. And we've been looking at God's pathway of restoration that you and I, that we might be able to flourish again. So all of these sermons, they're all stored at [pray.org/say](http://pray.org/say). And if you actually want to follow along this morning with what I'm saying, you can find a sermon there. It's entitled One Way to Heaven. And I would encourage you to make use of those tools. Okay, let me pray for us. Father in heaven, we bow before you, our maker, and we believe that that is true, that you are our maker and because you are the one who created us, you have created rights over us and therefore your words matter. They don't just matter more than ours, they're the only ones that matter.

And God, I believe your word echoes this page after page after page, that we will not flourish as people living in your world until we yield to your word. And so we ask God that you would give us a heart that would be inclined to your word, that you would help us to regard you as holy, that you would help us to see what Jesus did to make a way. And I pray for those in the room who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, perhaps even here to learn a little bit more about Jesus or why people make much of him. I pray God that you would convince their hearts and open their hearts to their own personal need to follow Jesus with their life. And so we look to you in faith, we do speak through weakness and bring glory to Jesus Christ in each of our hearts. We pray in His name, amen.

So the Bible begins with really important words. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and I know you're kind of smirking at me now because I've used this verse like every week for a long time, but it's really not a joke. When you learn that God has authority over your life and then you learn that He has spoken into your life about how to live, what He says matters when He has creator rights over us. And so what we're told is that God created the heavens and the earth. He created a man and a woman and inside the confines and the boundaries, the safe boundaries, protective boundaries that God gave them in terms of what they can and cannot do, they included one restriction that was aimed at protecting them. And so long and as long as they walked with God and so long as they trusted Him at His word, we find that they experienced a life that was full of flourishing.

They enjoyed perfect peace, unhindered love, total joy. And then the Bible tells us in chapter three of the same book that after a failed attempt in heaven to take over God's throne, one of God's archangels, his first name was Lucifer, other name is Satan, is that after failing his attempt to take over the throne of heaven, the Bible tells us that He came into this garden that God created into this world, and what he intended to do was to disrupt and to distort our own confidence and trust in God's character, his justice, his trustworthiness and his goodness. And he began this slight on God's character with very important words. Did God Really Say?

You'll hear this frequently, "Does the Bible really say that? Does God really say that?" And in each of these cases, what we find is an undressing of the character, the goodness and the justice of God.

It was Jesus Christ to said of Satan that he was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there's no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character for he is a liar and the father of lies. And so you notice that Satan's motive was and still is to kill. I know many of us, we didn't imagine waking up today. We didn't even pay attention to the reality that there is somebody in the world today that wants me dead and if he can't get your body, he's going to settle for your mind or for your heart, your motives, your inclinations. He wants to kill our joy. He wants to kill our hope. He wants to kill our honor. He wants to kill our reputation. He wants to kill our families, our relationships, our friendships. He wants to kill our church.

He wants to kill our worship. He wants to kill a spirit of prayer. He wants to kill a spirit of singing to the Lord. He wants to kill all of these things he wants to kill. The Bible tells us that he has a method and his method is to lie. His method is not to sink his teeth into our flesh, it's to sink his lies and deceit into our heart and he's really good at this, adding just enough truth to be plausible. Satan's lies are often extremely believable. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, they believe the lie, they sinned against God and devastation ensued and that devastation we're still experiencing today personally and we are all contributing to it in our own sin. Well, for the last two months we have been looking at what God really has said about a number of culturally sensitive issues and each week I have made an appeal to us as a church family to yield to the word of God, to yield to what God has said.

Jesus Christ has authority. Not only this is authority established at creation, it was demonstrated in his life. He came to the earth and He lived in perfect love and power over things such as the laws of nature. He had power and authority over evil. He had power and authority over sin, He had power authority over death, and then his power and authority were punctuated when He rose from the dead. Jesus Christ is Lord. And what that means is that what He says, it matters. When people in the New Testament spent time with Jesus, you find that it is they who went home changed and not Him. It was their feelings, their convictions, their creeds, their beliefs, their demands that changed and not His. You see, God is the source and standard of righteousness, truth and love. And so what He says is the basis of what is right, true and loving.

Providence, no matter how far this world moves away from God, I assure you we cannot pick and choose from God's word and flourish. We cannot pretend to sit on the throne, His throne, and flourish. We cannot redefine what is true and flourish. Truth is not what we feel. Truth is not what we agree with. It is not what works and it is not our life experience. Truth is what God says. Psalm 119, verse 160 says, the sum of your word is truth. If you want to know what is the category of truth, you add up, that's the sum. You add up everything God has said and what that is truth. And as a church family, we must hold fast and by His strength we will hold fast to His word for His words are the only words that truly matter. Well, there is one last area that is frequently disputed, a culturally sensitive issue that we want to talk about today, and it is, did God

really say that Jesus is the only way?

A recent survey that was done asking people, they ask a lot of different people, a lot of different questions, and one of the results of the surveys that they gave, at least among the people they ask is that 60% of those individuals they ask who first professed to be a Christian, when asked the question, is Jesus the only way? 60% of them said no. I wonder what you would say. Is Jesus the only way to heaven? And more important than what you said or what I would say, is we should ask, "Well, what did God really say?" You look in the Bible and you open it up and you get to Deuteronomy chapter four, and there God says, "Lay it to your heart that the Lord is God in heaven and on the earth beneath and there is no other."

Deuteronomy chapter six verse four, "The Lord our God, the Lord is one, you shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, and with all of your might." All leaves nothing left for another. You turn to Isaiah chapter 45 verse five, and it says, "I am the Lord and there is no other. Besides me, there is no God." Isaiah 45 verse 22, "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth for I am God and there is no other." The Lord is the one and only God and He's sent to the earth one and only Savior. First Timothy two verse five, "There is one God and there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." Speaking of Jesus Christ, in Acts chapter four, we read, "There is salvation in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

So we ask the question, "Well, what did Jesus say?" In John chapter three, speaking of himself, he says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever does not obey, the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." John chapter 10, verse nine, Jesus says, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved." John chapter 14, verse six, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through me." What this means is that if we believe that Jesus is a way to heaven, we have to believe he is the only way to heaven. For if he is wrong or deceitful in claiming to be the only way to heaven, then we would be wrong to believe that he is any way to heaven. There is one body, Ephesians tells us, and one spirit, just as you recall, to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. If there is one God, there is no other God.

If there is one Lord, there is no other Lord. If there's one hope, there's no other hope. And if there is one savior and his name is Jesus Christ, there's no other savior, but the question that Romans 10 answers for us is why is Jesus the only way, and this is all we find starting in verse one. He says, "Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved, for I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God but not according to knowledge, for being ignorant of the righteousness of God and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

"For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law. The person who does the commandments shall live by them, but the righteousness based on faith says, do not say in your heart who will ascend into

heaven that is to bring Christ down, or who will descend into the abyss that is to bring Christ up from the dead, but what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. That is the word of faith that we proclaim, because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you'll be saved. For with the heart one believes in is justified and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Why is Jesus the only way? I'm going to give you two reasons from these verses. First, because everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's holiness. Everyone has fallen short of his holiness. When you imagine what Paul is thinking about, he's burdened in his heart and he tells us what he is burdened about. In verse one, he looks at his fellow brothers and sisters in Israel who have not put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ and he is overcome by the fact that they have not trusted Him and therefore they're lost and he bears witness to this burden in verse one when he says, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. In other words, they weren't saved.

The Bible tells us that people who aren't saved, they're not worse than anybody else. It means he calls it lost. It's actually a really kind word to be disoriented in life. They were lost and their lostness, their lack of salvation was not because of a lack of effort or sincerity, because verse two tells us, he says, "I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God but not according to knowledge." Zeal. In other words, they were driving really fast, they were living fast, they were being really religious, they were experiencing tremendous amounts of religious activity and yet they were driving in the wrong direction.

And the fact is, no matter how zealous you are, no matter how fast you drive, if you're pointed in the wrong direction, you're not going home and you're not going to get home. Zeal that's missing direction is fast misdirection. Even speaking himself, Jesus, he looked out at these really angry but very zealous pharisees who were accusing Him of blasphemy and they were claiming that God was their father, but they looked at Jesus and they wanted to kill Him, and Jesus says something so spectacular and so convicting, and what He says is this, if God were your father, you would love me. That is such a strong statement because what he's saying is this, no matter the sincerity or zeal of our spiritual pursuit or activity, if love for Jesus is lacking, God is not our father and heaven is not our home.

Why? Well, he tells us why. He tells us why zeal, in verse two, is still leading to a condition of lostness that he affirms in verse one and he tells us why in verse three, in verse three, he says this, he says, being ignorant of the righteousness of God and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. And so what you find in this one sentence is three different clauses, three different phrases stacked one on top of each other that actually form the three fatal flaws of religion. Now, when I use the word religion, some of you have friends that says, oh, that person's religious, they go to church. You may have a real relationship with Jesus Christ. When I'm talking about religion, what the Bible talks about is a human effort to keep a standard of rules in order to merit favor and acceptance with God.

That's what I'm talking about, and let me show you why you can't, why that is why that's a dead end. While it's zeal that's misdirected, it's not going to bring you home one by one. Let's work through these three phrases. The first thing that we learn, he says, is that they were ignorant of the righteousness of God. They did not understand just how holy, how righteous he is. Some of us, when we hear the phrase, we have fallen short of his glory and we imagine his holiness being so low that it feels like we've simply fallen off the curb. We have all fallen significantly further than the height of a curb.

They imagine that God in all of his moral character was simply a rung on the moral ladder above them. He was just out of distance, but with a little bit more zeal, with some effort and maybe with a little touch of mercy on his part is that He would pardon me of my sin and bring me to heaven. They were ignorant of the righteousness of God. God's holiness is light years beyond the addition of all of our understanding of His holiness.

His holiness is undefiled purity. He is absolutely unmixed. He can have no interaction with impurity or sin. He is perfect, flawless, glorious. This is all wrapped up in the word holy and in the Bible what you find, of course, is words and words often tremble to describe what they're being asked to describe. If you can imagine like a weightlifter and they have too much weight on the bar, and so they go down and they're coming up and they're trembling and they're shaking, and so they need other people to come close and to help and grab each side in order to let them lock their knees again. This is what happens when human language, like you think about what language is. We make some syllables, we put them together, we call it a word, and then we associate meaning to that word. But God, when it talks about He's holy or He's righteous, these attributes are so astounding that there's not a single word that can appropriately carry the weight of what they're being asked to describe.

So you know what the Bible does? It just repeats the word. So there's many times when you find an attribute of God and they just say it twice and two times in the Bible, it's tripled. In Isaiah six, in Revelation four, when the angels, when there's a picture of God almighty in heaven, in His splendor, in His glory and His holiness, His righteousness, the angels in heaven, they're crying out in Isaiah chapter six, holy, holy, holy is the Lord of host. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty. In other words, what's happening is this. The perfection of God's righteousness, His glory, His purity is leading the angels to repeat the word over and over because one utterance of the word cannot hold the weight of what they see, and yet in spite of the reality of His absolute holiness, every religion in the world seeks to lower the bar of God's righteousness until it is reachable or at least approachable in our own strength.

One of the reasons trying to earn your way to God's holiness is flawed is because it's an insult to him. The second thing verse three tells us though is they go a step further. Now that they've lowered the bar and this is what we all do, we lower the bar. We're like, I think now I can get over that bar. And so what do they do, seeking to establish their own? And this is the reality of every religion in the world, whether this religion is

nationalistic, which means okay, if you join our people and you work really hard to keep our moral code. Or if it's spiritualistic, right, you work really hard to escalate through different levels of consciousness to be able to experience some sort of perfection. Or whether it's legalism where you don't need any other people. You simply have a code of conduct that you keep with all of your might. In each one of these, what we find is this, every religion in the world leads us to a ladder and tells us to climb, and yet the ladder doesn't reach heaven. It doesn't reach heaven. And what this does is it creates within every religion this understanding that performance leads to acceptance. If I just perform well enough, he's going to accept me. And what it also does is it brings comfort only through comparison. We don't want to compare ourselves to Him, so we compare ourselves to each other. And what does that do? What does it do? It makes some of us arrogant little Pharisees who look down on other people and it makes the rest of us anxious little Pharisees who look down on ourselves. What's the problem?

The problem is that we do not get a vote on the standard of entering heaven. Jesus came to the earth though and He told us the standard to get to heaven. And these are the overwhelming words that He said, "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Now, I know some of you're thinking, well that can't be true. Let me just tell you on the authority of what Jesus himself said, "If you are not perfect, you will not go to heaven." Well, that kind of represents a problem for us, doesn't it? Every one of us you say, well, someone told me this was going to be good news. This is terrible news.

There is good news, but it's coming. The fact is, we've all sinned and therefore we're not perfect. And sin in our heart is like salt in the ocean. Just as you and I cannot remove the salt in the ocean by pouring fresh cups of water into it, so you cannot remove the sin in your heart by pouring little cups of morality into it. And that leads us to the third part of verse three. What else did they do? They did not submit to God's righteousness. They didn't submit to God's righteousness in his provision of Jesus. Verse four tells us that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. But they didn't submit to this. They looked at Jesus and they thought, He's totally inconsequential. He's unessential to life or to eternity. They didn't believe Him. They didn't believe His words. They didn't see His authority, they didn't see His love. They didn't hear His call to repent as being substantive because they were so absorbed with religious activity.

The first reason that Jesus is the only way is because we have all fallen short of his holiness because of our sin. But the second, this is where it gets really good, is that Jesus Christ came to die for our sin and justify all who believe. I want you to know that if you're here today and following Jesus Christ feels heavy to you, it's because you either taught or you have forgotten. You either taught wrong or forgotten this, Jesus has already done all the heavy lifting for us, and Moses and Paul want to lean on each other in order to make a point. Paul looks back and he goes, I got a buddy that I've read before. His name is Moses. Let's talk about him in verse five. He says, Moses writes about the righteousness based on the law. This is Leviticus 18 five. This is where Moses writes this, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.



What he's saying is this, if you live a perfect moral life on the earth, you will live and go to heaven. But we've all tried and we've all failed. We've all sinned and fallen short of his glory. The Bible knew it was going to happen, and so he promised a rescuer and he eventually sent that rescuer, and Paul wants to show what the rescuer in Jesus did for us because we couldn't do it for ourself. And what he does is he leans on Deuteronomy 30 and compares it to the gospel to make a point. So watch how these verses, they all sit upon each other. It's really beautiful. Religion says to us, who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us that we may hear it and do it. This is religion. I see a ladder, I see a mountain, I see a big hill, a great need for effort.

I'm going to use my effort. And then if someone does it, they can bring it back to us and tell us how we can do it. We're going to do it. But what does the gospel say? He says, "Do not say who will ascend into heaven." And then he throws in these little parentheses in order to make his point, that is to bring Christ down. And so what he's doing, I know it may be a little hard because the language is a little wooden, but here's what he's doing. He's replacing Jesus Christ coming down to the earth in the form of a man taking on flesh and living without sin and he is replacing our need to do the law with it. And then he goes a step further. The very next verse, what does He say? He says, "Religions will tell you who will go over the sea and bring it to us that we may hear it and do it."

We've got to do it. It's up to us to do it. No, the gospel, what is it? Do not say who will descend into the abyss. That is to bring Christ up from the dead. And now what he does is he replaces our doing the law with the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead after he died for our sin. And then he takes it a step further to learn how to appropriate what Jesus did to our own personal life. And he says in the next verse, "The word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart so that you can do it." But what does the gospel say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. That is the word of faith that we proclaim." In other words, faith in Jesus Christ replaces the demand to do the law on our own effort, because now what we're doing is we're placing our faith in someone who has already done it perfectly.

You see, the commands were too hard for us, but they were not too hard for Christ. He lived without any sin and yet he went to a cross and there he died for our sin. On the cross, he absorbed all of the wrath of God that was directed to us and he paid our debt before God. He was buried in a grave and on the third day he rose from the dead, and the invitation is given to each one of us. "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For what the heart one believes in is justified and what the mouth one confesses and is saved." What he's saying is this, you notice that for those who believe and confess, they become justified. What that simply means is this, that when we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, He takes our sin and He places it upon Christ. Who dies for it.

And He takes Jesus righteous accomplishments, Jesus' righteous resume, His account and He transfers that righteousness to our account and it happens to be perfect, allowing each one of us who trust in Him to stand before the gate of heaven, you therefore must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. It is the only way.

You see, Christ is the only door to heaven because he is the only atonement for sin. But don't mistake in the requirements to enter through Jesus Christ as having to enter through this enormous burden because the Bible tells us that He is the pearl of great price. He's the treasure hidden in the field. He is the author of life who created people. He is the architect of beauty and love and relationship to bless His people. He is the almighty who strengthens His people. He is the advocate who speaks for His people. He is the bread of life who satisfies His people.

He is the good shepherd who lays down His life for His people. He is Emmanuel, who chooses to walk willingly with His people. He is the heir of all things, who chooses to share His abundance with His people. He is the high priest who intercedes for His people. He is the lamb of God, whose blood covers His people. He is the light of the world who illuminates the hopes of His people. He's the king of the ages who uses His power to serve His people. He's the lion of Judah, who conquered the grave for His people. He's the Lord of glory, who commands good for His people. He's the man of sorrow, who is familiar with the pains of His people. He's the protector and perfecter of faith, who forever keeps His people. He is the resurrection and the life, who gives eternal life for His people, and He is the word of God who reveals God to His people.

He is the eternal one. He's the perfect one. He's the righteous one. He's the holy one and He's the only one. He's the wonderful counselor for those who are confused. He's the mighty God for those who are weak, he's the everlasting father for those who are afraid. He's the prince of peace for those who are anxious. He's the son of God and the son of man, able to mediate between God and man. And He is the great I am. He sees those nobody sees. He knows those nobody knows. He hears those nobody hears. He loves us when we are unlovely. He blesses the young. He regards the old. He rewards the faithful. He's faithful for the faithless. He's compassionate to the vulnerable. He runs to the repentant. He forgives the sinner. He's the treasure of the redeemed and He is the only way, the only truth and the only life. And the good news is that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Yes, everyone.

Have you? Have you. Not are you in a church, not are you religious, not does your week have religious activity? Are you saved? Are you born again? Does the spirit of God live in your heart? Does He confirm in your spirit that you are a child of God? If not, I appeal to you to believe in Him. I appeal to you to follow Him, to put your trust in Him. And I want to give you an opportunity before the end of the sermon to do that right now. So would you pray with me? And for those of you who want to pray to receive Jesus Christ, the Bible says what you have to do is call. To believe in confess is to call him and to talk to Him.

There's no magic words. You just talk to Him. But you could say something like this. Father in heaven, I believe that I'm a sinner. I believe that I have guilt and I believe that I cannot absolve that guilt. I believe that you love me, though. I believe that you sent Jesus Christ to the earth. I believe that He lived without sin. He lived the perfect life and I believe He died on a cross for my sin. On the third day I believe He rose from the dead and I confess Him as Lord. And I ask that you would take away my sin. Forgive me, and I ask that you

would give me His righteousness and justify me. I repent of my sin of trying to save myself, and I put all of my hope in Jesus Christ and I pray this in Jesus name. Amen.

Paul knew this news had to be told. If you just prayed receive Christ, you have something to tell, really good news to tell. And so he says to us, “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed and how are they to believe in whom they’ve never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they’re sent?” Faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ. This is why you saw at the beginning of our time all these college students who are going to go to places we can’t even name because the people there don’t know.

And some of you say, “Well, what about those who never hear?” Well, the book of Romans actually tells us a number of things that answer that question. In chapter one, we learned that every single person in the world has a knowledge of God because of his created order, that every single person has rejected that knowledge of God and has sinned against Him. That for every single person who is yet to hear of Christ, that God’s wrath remains on them, but that God in his love sent Christ into the world to provide a way of salvation. And for those who know the path of salvation, it’s our responsibility and our commission to go and take it to them. In other words, our mandate, Providence, is not to debate the peril of those who haven’t heard in life groups. It’s to get on a plane and go tell them.

It’s to go across the street and tell them. And I know people, not all people are going to love this, but one day every single person is going to stand before God almighty holding only what is in that person’s heart. And if faith in Jesus Christ is in that person’s heart, that will be the best day of your whole life. For there you will hear the judge of all the earth say, innocent, righteous, perfect heaven. But for every single person who does not have faith in Jesus Christ, they will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord.

How do we avoid such destruction? We put our faith and trust in the gospel. It is the only way. So let me close with just a few thoughts. First, let me urge you to yield to the Bible as our authority. I assure you, your life will not begin to flourish until you yield to what He says. He is the creator of this world and we woke up and we’re living in his world. And what he says matters. He’s told us about life and death, heaven and health, religion, and the gospel. The fact is it is not narrow-minded to believe this, because the path of heaven is so narrow, so trust him.

Second, if you have not yet trusted Christ, I urge you, think about these things. You don’t need me or anyone else, you simply need to call upon Him. So maybe this afternoon, maybe tonight you’re thinking about this call upon Him in faith. Third, let me encourage you to share our faith in Jesus Christ with others. There is an implication when believers say no, those 60% of whoever was pulled in that survey who said no, Jesus is not the only way, what you’re going to find in those 60% is a lack of willingness to extend themselves to the point

of discomfort, to share the gospel with others. Preferring the company of friends in peril over the honor of Christ in heaven, they remain quiet or worse still, justify their friends' zeal when God has already said the zeal is not sufficient. More than duty, there is delight.

Do you see the good news that we get to talk about? Our calling is to say excellent things about the excellent one. And so God forbid the lie of pluralism, receive hospitality in our heart or church that would keep us from speaking of Jesus to the 70% of the 1.1 million people in our own community and 75% of the 7.9 billion people in the world who do not have a relationship with Christ. Finally, let me urge you to resolve to live for the glory of Jesus. I assure you, in particular those of you who are looking for a life purpose, you do not need to know a ton of things for your life to matter forever, but you do need to know the things that will last forever and give your life to them. The most important truth in the entire world is the supremacy of Jesus Christ, our creator, our sustainer, our savior, our Lord, and our judge, and I urge you to live for his glory.

So let's pray. Father in heaven, we bow before you, our maker, and thank you for your word, and thank you for revealing to us the path to heaven. God, it is an arrogance on our part to demand two ways to heaven or three or more when we have not even deserved one. And yet, in your own grace and mercy, you sent a rescuer who is sufficient and powerful and perfect in every way, and Jesus, thank you for your willingness to come and rescue us. As a church family help us to live for your glory and for those considering Christ, would you please incline their heart to think of these things. So we sing to you now, Jesus, because you are the one and only, and we pray this in Christ's name. Amen. Would you stand?



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