Encounter Church Sermon Notes

September 20, 2026 — Pastor John Vernon

ENCOUNTER CHURCH

5th Anniversary Sunday

Remarks by Pastor John Vernon

1

Scripture aids us in our salvation journey

2 — 1 Timothy 4:16

16 Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.

3

Grace and Peace are imparted through Scripture

4 — 2 Peter 1:2

2 May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

5

Scripture aids in sanctification

6 — John 17:17

17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

7 — Ephesians 4:13–14

Scripture helps protect us from destructive error

13 …until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

8

We embrace these truths today at Encounter Church, and have since our founding 5 years ago.

9

Scriptures that lay the foundation for Encounter…

10 — Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

11 — 2 Timothy 3:16–17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

12 — Psalm 119:130

130 The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.

13 — Mark 13:31

31 Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

14

For me as your pastor…

15 — 2 Timothy 2:15

15 Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

16 — 2 Timothy 4:2

2 Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

17 — 1 Timothy 4:13

13 …focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them.

18

As we move beyond our 5 year anniversary…

19

We will continue to be a church of the Word.

20

As your pastor, it is my goal to remain faithful to teaching and preaching His Word with clarity and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

21

Christian community is vitally important

22 — Acts 2:42–47

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

23 — Hebrews 10:24–25

24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

24 — 1 Peter 4:8–11

8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. 10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 11 Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ.

25 — Psalm 133:1–3

1 How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! 2 For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron’s head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. 3 Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting.

26 — John 13:34–35

34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

27 — Acts 2:47

47 ...And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.