

A Consistent Hope: Press On

Sunday, October 19th - Hebrews 10:36-39

So this morning, we're going to be wrapping up chapter 10 of Hebrews.

And this has been a long chapter.

I look back and we started this sometime at the beginning of October.

We started chapter 10.

No, we're in October.

Beginning of September, we started chapter 10.

And so it's been going on for several weeks now, but really excited about what we have been learning about in the book of Hebrews.

At least for me, it's been challenging.

It's been growing inside of me and teaching me things.

We started this chapter kind of wrapping up the doctrinal element of the book of Hebrews.

The writer moving on from all of his doctrinal things, talking about the old covenant and how it used to be done and how it relates to the new covenant.

And he begins to launch into how we should thus respond to this new covenant.

that Jesus has set up due to his death burial and resurrection and what we learned is prior to Jesus coming worship was all done outside of the body it was laws and it was rules and it was sacrifices and it was offerings and it was feast and it was showing up at the appointed time and doing the things that you had to do and then

You went back home.

If you were obedient to do these things, which was all outside of the body, you received the blessing of being passed over for judgment yet for another year, and it would be rolled forward until the next year where you had to bring your sacrifices and things like that.

And that, of course, brought us to Hebrews 10, verse 14, where Jesus is now changing this.

It says in verse 14, By this one offering, talking about the offering of himself, he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

In other words, he has completed salvation, and he is now working to sanctify within us and make us become holy, set apart, and like him, so that we have this promise to be with him in heaven.

So the focus really changes to this new covenant that God is establishing.

And he spoke about it in the Old Testament.

It's where he said, I will establish a new covenant with all men, and I will write these rules upon their hearts, and I will put them in their minds so that not only will it be...

a a religion of hands and actions but yet it's going to be something that is going to work on the inside of them and is going to change them and of course with this we have the ability to be born again our spirits are reborn and become alive to christ and we have the ability to spend eternity with jesus in heaven which is his goal and

The writer then moves into how can we do this because you have to think he's writing to Judaic Christians and everything has been done by practice of hand.

So I'm sure there's lots of questions.

Well, how do we do this?

This is so different than what it has been.

We launched into four things that the writer lays out that Christians must do to have a consistent hope, not only in this life, but for the life to come.

And so we've covered three of them.

First, we talked about entering in.

This was a new practice for them.

We kind of understand it a little bit more, but only the high priest went into the presence of God once a year.

But now it's different because we are told that through the blood of Jesus Christ, we have the ability to come boldly before the throne of grace daily into God's presence.

That way he can continue and or he can start and continue to make us and mold us and shape us into who he is wanting us to be.

So we have the ability to enter into his presence, to learn about him, to get to know him in a personal way and to be able to serve him.

See, because the forgiveness that we have, it removes the guilt and shame of sin that we've carried.

We no longer have that.

Therefore, we can be accepted into the family of God and come into His presence not having guilt or shame.

Second, we talked about we are to hold fast.

It's essential to maintain our confession of hope and to remain engaged with the community of faith rather than to foolishly defect or to remove ourselves

from these vital connections that we have, one, with the Holy Spirit, two, with our community of faith.

And we talked about how this community, this herd, our group of people, we're here to do two things.

We're to provoke you, each other, not to negative things, but to love and to good works.

And that caused many people to neglect their faith, to reject their community of believers, and to forsake their Savior, Jesus Christ.

And so that kind of led into the third element where we are to stay near.

And we took this in two parts because the writer paints a picture of how we forsake the faith.

We can do that by neglecting or forsaking the gathering together and rejecting the truth of God.

We trample the Son of Jesus and we call the blood that he shed, which gives us forgiveness, a common thing.

It's unimportant.

It's irrelevant.

And we insult the Holy Spirit.

This is what it means to

Reject God, it means to apostatize, to leave the faith.

When we do these things, it removes us from the community and the presence of God.

Then, at that same junction...

There's also another choice.

We can choose that.

Trouble gives us the ability to choose to reject God.

But we also have another choice where we can push to stay near to God and the community of faith.

And of course, we talked about this last week where as we push into our community, it learns and teaches us to foster fellowship.

Because not only are we having difficult times in our life,

Our brothers and sisters are also having difficult times in their life and it brings together this camaraderie and fellowship with one another

And that we can rely upon one another.

It helps us to grow in compassion because not only have we walked through things, other people walk through things.

And as we choose to stay near and to press in, it should produce resilience because we understand that God has brought us through hard times.

He's brought you through hard times and therefore he's going to be faithful to continue to bring us through hard times as we go through life and endure all of its troubles.

So we can enter in, we can hold fast and stay near.

And as we put these practices into action in our daily lives, we find the strength to press on, which is our final step this morning.

So if you will, Hebrews chapter 10, just a couple of short verses today, starting in verse 36.

And it says,

Amen.

Let's pray this morning.

Father, we thank You for Your Word, Father.

And as we come to this conclusion of this section of Scripture, Lord, we ask that You would help to tie all the loose ends, all the questions up into a nice, beautiful bow so that we understand what You were trying to tell us, how we are to respond to this grace and mercy and forgiveness that You have so blessed

willingly provided for us but yet to give us the understanding that we also have to respond to it lord and father i just pray that you would give us clarity of heart to hear the word that you want us to hear today father father that you would guide my thoughts and my words that they would speak which you would have us hear

And we thank you for this blessing in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Amen.

So this past week...

the office was closed and the whole staff went over to Billings for the Northwest District Leadership Conference.

And it was the first opportunity to be able to take everybody, the whole staff, their whole families, and it was just a couple hours away in Billings.

And the district gave us a scholarship, and so I invited all the staff to come

And it was quite fun.

I think there was a total of 20 of us that went there.

And it was really a unique time.

And I do have to apologize because it was on my mind to let you guys know, but I totally spaced it.

On Tuesday night, I was ordained with the Four Square Church.

Thank you.

Foursquare is just a little bit different.

I have been ordained before with Last Chance Chapel in the ministry I was doing there.

Foursquare is just a little bit different.

They do licensing first, and then after you've been working for several years, and they realize that you're not really a screw-up, and you're actually a true Christian, and...

You are actually called to the position and the place that you are working in.

You can thus be ordained.

And so that happened on Tuesday night.

It was a great time there.

We got home Thursday, and as we settled in, and I was getting ready to go to bed, it was interesting.

It's always interesting when you seem to experience highs in life, there comes a valley after in these lows.

And I began to experience several anxieties that began to...

creep into my mind and and wrestle with my thoughts and as i was going to bed thursday night and i was able to push them away uh and you know get back to where praying about them and just submitting them to the lordship of jesus but as i woke the next morning and went to read my bible they begun to come back you know and it's uh it's interesting because

I don't know about you, but when anxieties tend to surface, they're some of the dumbest things.

And they're way out in left field.

They're just like the fringest of the fringest things that could possibly happen.

But yet our mind wants to just make us fear these things.

And it was kind of interesting as I recognized the just stupidity of some of these thoughts.

I began to call it out.

It's interesting how quick our mind goes from security to a cataclysmic doomsday fallout scenario, and we just think, wow, this is so going to happen today.

Our mind has this ability to deceive us into this.

But as I began to read my Bible...

You know, my mind quickly went from Scripture to a scenario where I had lost my mind and was drooling and sitting in my chair while my kids took care of me.

You know, amongst other things, and it was just like, this is not what the Word of God promises.

And I remember just kind of,

there's this concept I keep in the back of my mind, and I don't know who shared it with me, but it's in lieu of some scripture, and I don't remember the scripture, but it's this concept where you just grab yourself by the scruff of the neck, and you're like, get out of this stupidity and back to reality.

And I actually remember saying out loud,

stop it's telling my mind to stop the thoughts and taking them captive and I spoke out loud you know my faith is in Jesus and he is in control and I'm his child and that I choose today to follow him and believe his promises

And that's kind of where the writer of Hebrews wraps up this chapter in dealing with the same thing.

Hebrews 10, verse 36 says, For you have need of endurance.

You have need of endurance.

There's something to sticking with and outlasting those, in my instance, the thoughts of the moment and the struggles that my mind were trying to paint as a reality.

We have need of endurance so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.

This word endurance is a patient endurance.

Man, that sounds fun, right?

Just kind of sit there and endure.

But it also has elements of being a courageous endurance.

How many of you would agree that you need endurance?

And I don't mean for the treadmill.

I mean, I could probably use some of that, but that's not what the writer is talking about.

Endurance is the ability to withstand hardship or adversity for a prolonged period of time.

Oh me.

The Greek word is quite a fascinating word.

It's called hupomone.

And it combines two words, the word hupo, which means to be under, and the word mone, to remain.

And it talks about the concept of remaining under.

And it describes the ability to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances.

Not with passive complacency.

Oh, que sera, sera.

What will be, will be.

Rather, with a hopeful fortitude that actively resists weariness and defeat.

It's kind of a self-sustaining and re-energizing ability.

It doesn't get tired.

It resists weariness and defeat.

And I find it interesting that this one word destroys...

the popular thought of the prosperity gospel.

That life after Jesus will be comfort and leisure.

God will take care of all my problems.

Everything's going to work out.

Everything that I ask him, he's just going to magically show up in my inbox the next day.

It's all going to be just like I want because God's my genie in a bottle.

He's here to hear my cry.

He's here to answer my prayer.

He's here to take care of me.

Well, not according to this.

It's actually going to be hard.

And those who can continue to function and to press on to endure the hardships, those are the ones that receive the reward.

It's not those that falter and fall, as we're going to learn this morning.

It's not those who quit and say, you know what, this is too much.

I would ask, but I know that the answer would be yes in your own way.

But we're all under difficult circumstances.

And every day is a struggle to maintain the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

As I just shared with my mental struggles as I was reading the Bible.

And the writer is speaking to you and I just as much as he's speaking to his audience some 2,000 years ago because Solomon wrote some 1,000 years before that that there's nothing new under the sun.

Humanity today is struggling with the same things that they were struggling with all throughout history.

And they didn't have cell phones, and they didn't have cars, and they didn't have these things.

But that struggle...

is with the trouble of the day.

They had their own troubles in that day.

They had their own temptations.

They had their own flesh, their own issues, their own struggles that they had to deal with every day.

And while they may look just a little bit different than my struggle or your struggle, that trouble

is working to rob both us and them of their endurance, to make us quit and to fall further away from God.

That's the whole purpose of the book of Hebrews.

The group of Christians in Jerusalem were contemplating going back to the old way because they were just tired of struggling, tired of the persecution, tired of the trouble, tired of the difficulty.

And I know I said it last week, and I've said it many times before, that many people who struggle with how they think things should be versus reality are the ones who fall away.

God said he's my healer.

Well, I ain't healed.

God said he's my provider.

He's my healer.

Boy, I wish my bank account would catch up to my faith.

God said he's my comforter, but man, I sure don't have any comfort in life.

This sucks.

He said he would never leave me, and I haven't seen, heard, or felt him in a long time.

It's during these times that our eyes and our attention gets more focused upon my needs and my lack and my struggle and my difficulty.

And we begin to focus on our own strength and our own ability.

And we take our eyes off of God.

And our issues and our trouble begins to consume us.

So we have to understand...

God working through our circumstances.

God isn't here to write you a clean bill of health and write you a check that will cover everything you have.

Rather, he's there to be with you through them.

Look what Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians.

He said to me, my grace is sufficient for you.

At first thought, it's like, man, Lord, don't tell me that.

I don't want to hear that.

I don't want to hear your grace is sufficient.

I want you to fix the problem.

Paul even says in this passage, if you read up, I pleaded three times and he heard three times my grace is sufficient.

But he's like, Lord, not the answer I want.

Let's try again.

See if you can hear me speak to you.

Can you hear the words that are coming out of my mouth?

He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, and my strength is made perfect in your weakness.

Oh, I'm so tired of having these weaknesses.

Ah.

I wish God would just take them away.

Paul says, therefore, I would rather boast in my infirmities that the power of Christ might rest upon me.

Here's a hard one, guys.

He finally got up from his prayer closet, stopped fleeing with the Lord and said, you know what, Lord, I hear the words that are coming out of your mouth.

And I take pleasure in my infirmities.

Oh, Paul.

Give us a break, bro.

I take pleasure in my infirmities, in reproaches.

We talked about that word last week.

Someone who is very persistent in insulting you and very harshly talking about you and putting you down.

In needs, in persecutions, in distresses.

For Christ's sake.

When I am weak, then I am strong.

Because now all of a sudden in my weakness, I am coming to God saying, God, I need you in my weakness.

I need you to give me strength.

I need your help to endure because I'm weak.

But you are strong.

See, Paul didn't allow this infirmity to push him away from God.

But rather he used it to press on and complete the will of God for his life.

So that he could receive the promise that was awaiting him.

That he could receive the promise.

See, we need endurance so that we can continue to walk out our faith daily.

Because if we keep our eyes focused on all of our distresses and the persecutions and our needs and our struggles and our weaknesses, we're not going to make it to the end.

Because see, verse 37 goes on to say that we have this promise that is coming, that if we will just endure the time that we're here,

and we would press on and push in and continue to seek God, there's going to be a time when Jesus comes back.

He's going to come back and He's going to receive us to Himself.

Now, how many of you would raise your hand or say amen that you are waiting for Jesus to return?

I mean, the song, you know, Come Jesus Today.

Amen?

Well, the Christians back then were also impatiently waiting for Jesus to return.

And many began to walk away from their faith as troubles increased and Jesus tarried.

Guess what?

He still hasn't come back.

So what do we do with that?

We endure.

We press on.

We continue because his word is true.

See, believers in that day begin to let their faith waver and eventually backslide.

I know that I was thinking about this this week, and I had these thoughts when I was a younger guy that...

You know, I had these things.

I was like, you know, Jesus really doesn't ever have to come back.

It could just always be this outstanding promise that he has made, but he really doesn't have to because life could continue.

People would continue to be born.

Faith would continue to grow.

People would begin, continue to be saved.

And it could just go on in perpetuity.

He doesn't actually have to come back.

But as I lived through life, as I've gotten a little bit older, yeah,

You know, that theology is changing a little bit.

And he does have to come back.

It might not be in our lifetime.

But for his word to be true, he has to honor his word.

And we have to understand that he is going to be true to his word.

So with that, we need endurance to help us press on, to accomplish the will of God in our lives.

and to receive the promise of eternal life with Jesus.

And I know this might sound like I'm on repeat, and it's the same thing I've been saying every week, but we maintain endurance by staying connected to the Word of God in prayer.

Because it feeds our soul.

We maintain endurance by staying connected to the body of Christ, to our small groups, to our community of faith, so that we can find strength and encouragement and fellowship and compassion, so that we can be resilient in the day of trouble.

It's all coming back upon itself, and it's just tilling the ground, keeping it fresh in our minds, saying this is how we maintain a consistent hope that Jesus Christ will come again and reward our faithfulness to Him.

It's not an empty promise, and it's going to happen.

And several weeks ago, I kind of titled this small series, A Consistent Hope, so that we could highlight these four elements of

Because back in verse 23, Jesus makes a promise and a guarantee that he who has made this promise to return is faithful and he will come back and welcome us into eternal life.

But we have to maintain a consistent hope in him.

And it's these four things that help us build a lasting faith that sustains us and helps us to endure until He comes back.

So, we are to press on, to press in, to continue.

Back in Bible college, I took a hermeneutics class.

And if you don't know what hermeneutics is, it's the art of preaching, how to deliver a sermon.

And we learned a basic outline of a sermon is an introduction, a body, which is the message, and then the closing.

And to help us remember what went in each category, because we were taking a class, we gave it this tagline, and this is how we learned it.

It says, first, tell them what you're going to tell them.

That's the introduction.

Second, tell them.

That's the body.

Third, tell them what you told them.

That's the conclusion.

And I don't always put that into practice very well, but the writer kind of uses this hermeneutic principle here towards the end of Hebrews chapter 10 because he is going to sum up everything that he has just told us in these last two passages of Scripture.

And it says now, "...the just shall live by faith."

But if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.

But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

So this phrase, the just shall live by faith, is found four times in your Bible, once in the Old Testament and the book of Habakkuk.

And that's its introduction point.

And the writers of the New Testament pick up on this thought, and they use it three times in the New Testament.

Paul takes it twice.

He first mentions it in the book of Romans.

He then mentions it in the book of Galatians.

And then the writer of Hebrews here in the chapter 10 of Hebrews mentions it as well.

And I just want to kind of dissect this phrase just a little bit.

And I'm not going to spend a whole lot of time on it because

This phrase really is the conclusion of chapter 10, but it's also the launching pad of chapters 11 and 12 and 13 because he's really going to focus on this area that he wants to draw to our attention.

So in Romans 1, verse 7, I don't think you have the Scriptures, but it's the same one, the just shall live by faith.

The passage in Romans focuses on the just part or the righteous part.

It says in Romans 1, verse 16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation.

The law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith.

And in the context, he's talking about how to live out our faith, whether we do it according to the law or we do it according to our faith.

And that whole chapter deals with how we live it out, how we walk through life

And then here in chapter 10 of Hebrews, the focus is on by faith, which makes perfect sense as we're getting ready to jump into chapter 11 of Hebrews, which is the faith chapter.

That's what everybody calls it.

And we are going to start in with chapter 11 next week, talking about faith.

a new little series in the book of Hebrews called By Faith, and we're going to go a lot deeper into this line.

But I wanted to illustrate how these last two scriptures really tie up the end of this book.

If you look at it, it's kind of written in a poem-type stanza, and it says, The just shall live by faith, which is then tied to the fourth line, We are those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Those two lines are...

Tag team together.

In the middle, it talks about the other side.

But if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.

But we are not of those who draw back to perdition.

And it's fascinating because as he wraps this up, he is just pounding this nail home.

He is just pounding this nail home, saying that there are just two sides of the coin.

And you are on one or the other side.

And I hope that you get this point this morning.

Because yet again, the fact is that there is one of two outcomes that is destined for you.

There's no third option.

You either make it into heaven or you make it into hell.

And I say that specifically because God doesn't send anybody to hell.

We choose which destination we want.

We all have that choice in this life.

And we might get kind of like a, maybe I'll see.

It's a defecting from the faith to perdition.

That word perdition means ruin or destruction.

With a fearful expectation of judgment and a fiery indignation.

That's a nice way to say hell.

where it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God.

In closing this morning, I realize that there have been lots of good conversations in small groups.

And if you're not a part of our small groups, I'd encourage you to do it.

Because we're talking about the sermons, and it gives a good opportunity to ask questions with other people and to work out what's going on here.

And I don't know about you, but often during the week, I will think of some part of the sermon and I just begin to chew on it and I begin to wrestle with it and seek to understand just a little bit more of what God is trying to say in the passage.

To me specifically, because once it's delivered, the word is out there, and it's going to work on me just like it's going to work on you.

And it's interesting, even in the office, there's lots of conversations that happen and questions that are brought up like once saved, always saved, or the concept of losing your salvation has come up a lot, especially in these last several sermons dealing with chapter 10 of Hebrews.

And look, I believe certain things, and they might be different from what you believe.

And that's okay.

We have to go to Scripture.

We have to seek to understand and ask God to clarify our beliefs, not based upon what I say, not based upon what I've learned, not based upon what I think, but based upon what Scripture says to me.

To ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, for clarification, for conviction on the Word of God that I read and that is preached.

Because I'm going to let you know I don't have all the answers.

I am still working out my salvation with fear and trembling, mostly because I have to stand before God one day and give an account for my beliefs.

But secondly, I have to stand up here every week and publicly share it.

So there's a lot of fear and trembling that goes into walking out my faith.

But this is what I have learned.

as we've gone through these last several sermons, is that God has provided everything that I need to be forgiven of my sin and to have eternal life with him in heaven.

It's all taken care of.

We talked about it back in verse 14, where he has perfected.

Salvation is complete.

There is no other work that is to be done.

On the cross, he said, it is finished.

That work that was finished was the work of salvation for you and I.

And then it talks about those of us who are being sanctified.

But here's the thing, God doesn't force His sanctification on me.

I have to choose daily to pick up my cross and to follow Him.

To enter into His presence by the blood of the Lamb.

To seek Him and to learn about Him, to know Him.

I have to be intentional about my faith and not neglect it.

I have to choose to hold tightly to what I believe because I'm not naturally inclined to faith.

If we just follow our heart, it will always lead to hell.

your heart is not a good thing.

And it will deceive you.

And it will make you think you're doing the right thing.

But putting your faith in your heart will always lead you to hell.

See, there's a constant war that is going on between our flesh and our spirit.

Scripture says our spirit is willing...

But our flesh is weak and it's always going to seek to pull and draw us and separate us from the love of God.

It's always fighting to win just as our spirit wins.

But our spirit only wins when we are intentional, purposefully choosing to lay down my selfish desires, my heart, my thoughts, bringing them into captivity and clinging to our faith.

See, trouble will consistently be gnawing at us every day, trying to get between us and God, trying to push us away, trying to feed us the lie that God is not who He says He is.

God is not keeping His word.

God is not doing what He said He would do.

But I have to stay near to God.

I have to stay near to my church family, to my small group, my community of faith where I can find strength and encouragement because the world will offer none to you.

As we talked about last week, when we recall the great sufferings and struggles that we've gone through, it should push us to seek out our

community of faith that we can find fellowship in our sufferings that we can know that who man I'm not alone in this fight we can bear one another's burdens we can have compassion and we can help others to continue to live out our faith

It's been very interesting that all four of these points are all things that must be done in community.

There's no lone wolves.

I even heard something said this week, I really loved it, that even Jesus did everything in community, everything he did with his either three disciples, his 12 disciples, or his 70 disciples, the only thing he did by himself, which was the only thing that could be done by himself, was he went to the cross alone.

Alone, forsaken by everybody.

The only work Jesus did by himself was the cross, which is only what he could do and no one else could.

Even Jesus worked in his community and with his community.

And then last, as we learned this morning, I must press on.

I must endure hardship, keep the faith, and remain until I am called home or Jesus returns.

That's the choice we have.

Because here's the truth.

Each day has its quota of trouble.

And our response to that trouble determines if we live by faith and endure and press on to the saving of our soul or our response to that trouble will cause us to draw back and defect to perdition.

where damnation and hell await.

So this morning as I wrap up chapter 10, I have to ask, is there anyone here this morning who has not come to Jesus to find forgiveness for your sins?

I can't stand up here and say there's only two choices, but I hope you figure it out on your own.

Because if you're left to your own devices, Scripture is very clear that our heart will lead us away.

But Jesus said to each of his disciples, go out and make disciples.

Go out and share your testimony.

Go out and win the lost, for the harvest is ready.

This morning, has the Holy Spirit maybe pricked your heart?

has said, you know, you need to respond to my offer of forgiveness.

Because the Bible is very clear that if we believe on the name of the Lord Jesus and confess our sins, we will be saved.

That is his promise.

So I would ask, is there anyone here who needs Jesus' salvation this morning, the forgiveness of sins?

Amen.

So if you will stand with me.

I have one final question this morning.

All of you here in this room have signified that you have Jesus in your heart and you have asked him to forgive you of your sins.

This question now focuses on

what we're going to do with that.

How many of you would say that you would like to have the boldness to live out the phrase, the just shall live by faith?

Would that be you?

That boldness means that we have to make choices to follow God.

And I really want to encourage you as we enter in to chapters 11 and 12 to be a part of it

Because what I love about the writer is faith is kind of a new concept to these believers.

So he's really going to begin to outline what it means to live by faith.

And so as you...

prepare for what's coming and as you begin to pray into these things I pray that you just begin to have an open heart to what chapters 11 and 12 are going to be about because we're going to be looking at examples of those who boldly lived out their life by their faith amen father we thank you lord that you have put this body of believers together

Lord, you have knit us together.

You have added to this body what needs to be here so that we could function and that we could accomplish and do the will of God that you have purposed for us to do.

So, Father, I pray that you would continue to help us to, one, commit to being consistent in our hope and to live by faith.

Lord, that we can press on and endure all that life throws at us

so that we can win some to your kingdom.

Because it's through these four things that we can do, Lord, that we show your love to a lost and dying world.

That we're different.

That we're not the same as everyone else.

We have the same struggles.

We walk through the same dark times and hard seasons of life, but yet we have this hope.

Lord, I pray that you would help this hope to shine forth.

That that hope would be a light that draws people who are otherwise hopeless in this world.

Because it's when they see the hope that you have given us, Lord, that the Holy Spirit can prick their heart and draw them with conviction into you, understanding that there is hope through Jesus Christ and no one else.

Lord, help us to show forth this hope, to let your grace be our strength when we're weak,
that we might draw men unto you.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Amen.

Real quick, before you run back there and eat all the cake, which I pray you will, a couple of things.

Next week, we'll be here next week preaching, but then me and Autumn and Creed and Prairie are hopping on a plane and heading to London to see...

Pastor Jeff and Colleen.

And I'm going to be with them for a couple weeks.

And so really excited about that.

Looking forward to seeing them and plan to send, bring them all your love and greetings and everything like that.

And so I just ask that you would be praying for us.

with that and then also I just want you to pray for the church there's lots of things going on behind the scenes right now and I will be rolling out some of these things here shortly but by annual meeting in February there's going to be a lot of changes made so don't let that scare you it's going to be excellent it's going to be good but just praying that you would be just asking that you would pray with us in the church as some of these things begin to happen and so

God is moving.

He's doing a lot of great things, and it's going to be good.

Amen?

Amen.

This is my way of just easing you into some things that are going to change a little bit.

All right.

Lord bless you.

Go grab some cake.

Thank you guys for your love and all your appreciation.