

Summary

This sermon was delivered at a memorial service for Pastor Paul Edward Mayfield Sr., who founded First Free Will Baptist Church of Hayesville, North Carolina in 1978 alongside Leonard Mayfield. Pastor Chris shared the history of Brother Paul's life, from meeting his wife Shirley at age 16, to his salvation experience when his sister Louise was miraculously healed, to his calling to ministry and eventual founding of the church. The central message focused on Job 19:25 - "For I know that my Redeemer liveth" - emphasizing the certainty of faith in Jesus Christ as our living Redeemer. The sermon celebrated Brother Paul's legacy while pointing to the hope of resurrection and Christ's second coming, encouraging the congregation to continue the work of ministry with the same confidence that their Redeemer lives.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we gather today to honor the memory of Brother Paul and to worship You. As we come together in this time of remembrance and celebration, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit and to receive the encouragement and hope that comes from knowing our Redeemer lives. Prepare our hearts for fellowship and discussion, and may we be strengthened in our faith through this time together. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one of your favorite memories from church growing up, or if you didn't grow up in church, what is one of your favorite memories from when you first started attending church?

Key Verses

- Job 19:25
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- Psalm 107:2

Questions

- Pastor Chris described Brother Paul as a man who 'walked with God' and was recognized as a 'holy man of God.' What characteristics make someone recognizable as a person who walks closely with God?
- Job declared 'I know my Redeemer liveth' with deep, settled certainty despite his circumstances. How can we develop this same kind of unshakeable confidence in our faith?

- Brother Paul was described as someone who 'preached like Jesus was standing in the room' and 'pastored like souls depended on it.' How should the reality that Jesus is alive and present impact the way we live our daily lives?
- Pastor Chris emphasized that denominations may divide but Christ brings everyone together. How can we maintain unity with other believers while still holding firm to biblical truth?
- The message highlighted the hope of resurrection and Christ's return. How does this future hope affect how you handle present difficulties and losses?
- Brother Paul was bi-vocational, working in a steel mill while pastoring. What can we learn from his example about faithfully serving God regardless of our circumstances?
- The sermon ended with the call to 'let the redeemed of the Lord say so.' How can we be more vocal and confident in declaring what Christ has done in our lives?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you need to declare with Job's confidence 'I know my Redeemer liveth.' Whether facing a difficult situation, making a decision, or dealing with uncertainty, practice speaking this truth aloud daily and let it shape how you respond to challenges. Also, look for an opportunity to encourage someone else by sharing how you've experienced Jesus as your living Redeemer.

Key Takeaways

- Our faith should be based on settled certainty, not just feelings or thoughts - we can know that our Redeemer lives
- Jesus is our Goel (kinsman redeemer) who steps in to defend, advocate for, and deliver us from every situation
- The hope of resurrection and Christ's return should impact how we live today and handle present difficulties
- Unity among believers comes through focusing on Christ rather than denominational differences
- Living a holy life that reflects our relationship with God makes us recognizable as people who walk with Him

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You that You are our living Redeemer. Help us to live with the same confidence that Brother Paul had - knowing that You are alive, that You are working in our lives, and that You are coming again. Give us boldness to declare Your goodness and faithfulness to others. May we follow the example of faithful servants like Brother Paul, living lives that honor You and advance Your kingdom. Until we see You face to face, help us to keep preaching, keep singing, keep loving, and keep serving because our Redeemer lives. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.