

What's the Point?

December 16, 2018 | Wonderful Mercy Church

Why?

- “Why?” is a good question when we think the answers are so obvious that we’ve stopped thinking about them in a purposeful way
- We may benefit from an honest inquiry; perhaps there’s something to see, something to learn that we have not anticipated

1 Thes. 3:9-13

“What would be an adequate thanksgiving to offer God for all the joy we experience before him because of you? ¹⁰ We do what we can, praying away, night and day, asking for the bonus of seeing your faces again and doing what we can to help when your faith falters. ¹¹ May God our Father himself and our Master Jesus clear the road to you!

1 Thes. 3:9-13

“And may the Master pour on the love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone around you, just as it does from us to you.¹³ May you be infused with strength and purity, filled with confidence in the presence of God our Father when our Master Jesus arrives with all his followers.” [THE MESSAGE]

Why?

- What's the point of *this* – the Sunday morning church gathering that is, for many of us, a regular part of our lives?
- What if the point isn't what we think it is, or is more than we imagined it is?
- Somewhere in the back of my brain is a vague awareness (if not conviction) that *this* is good for me... it's like medicine that way.



**Come to church and take your medicine.
It's good for you!**

What's the Point?

- Discovering the beauty of being surprised by God
- **Psalm 18:16-19** THE MESSAGE

“But me he caught—reached all the way from sky to sea; he pulled me out of that ocean of hate,¹⁷ that enemy chaos, the void in which I was drowning.¹⁸ They hit me when I was down, but GOD stuck by me.¹⁹ He stood me up on a wide-open field; I stood there saved—surprised to be loved!”

What's the Point?

- **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 THE MESSAGE**

“May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence,¹⁷ put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech.”

What's the Point?

- What if we're not here to take our medicine because it's good for us? What if the point is that God has something for us, something delightful and beautiful, that we never saw coming?
- **1 Thessalonians 3:13**^a THE MESSAGE
“May you be infused with strength and purity, filled with confidence in the presence of God our Father...”

What's the Point?

- Discovering the beauty of being a deeply loved son or a daughter of God
- The world will do all it can to lure us into its story as if it's a true story of our identity and meaning



“We’re not saying anything new here. We’re just saying the same things that need to be said again and again with fierce conviction.”

What's the Point?

- **1 Thessalonians 3:12** THE MESSAGE

“May the Master pour on the love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone around you.”
- It's love that makes us dangerous—and what if that's the point of being here?

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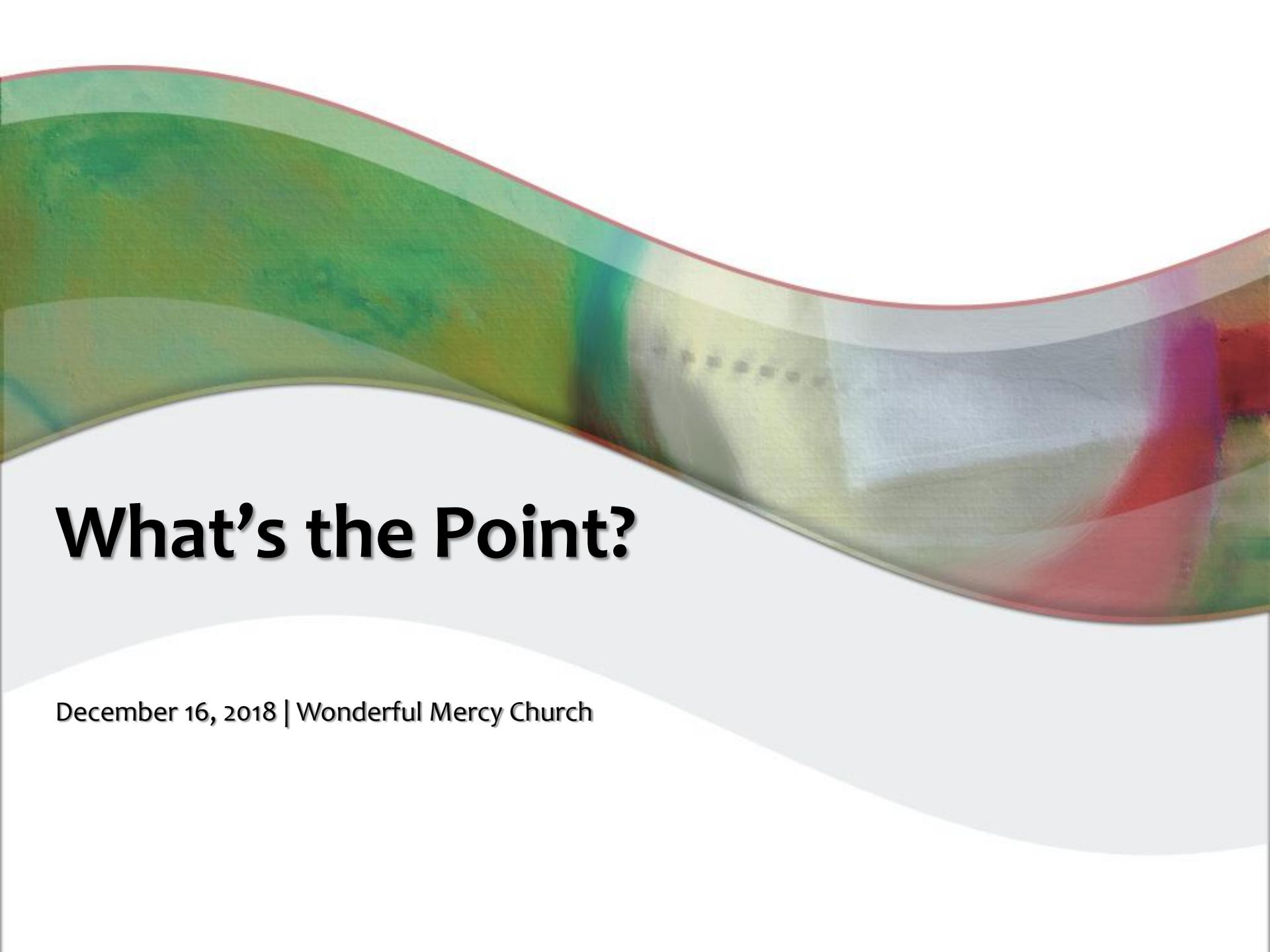
- Discovering the beauty of salvation
- PAST: “By grace you have been saved.” – Eph. 2:5b NIV
- PRESENT: “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” – 1 Cor. 1:18 NIV
- FUTURE: “It is time for us to wake up! For our full salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.” – Romans 13:11b PASSION

What's the Point?

- If you're a Christian, what do you (still) need to be saved from? Fear? Rejection? A false identity? Pride? Yourself?
- We come not knowing we need to be saved. But we do. Continually. And it all comes down to love. Why?
 - Only love can save us
 - Only love can make us dangerous
 - And only love can open us to the beautiful surprises of God

What's the Point?

- Jesus didn't come to make us more religious, nor is that the point of all this (the church thing and life together)
- He came to blow the doors off our lives, doors that have been shut to his beauty and ours



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