

Take you back 500 years to the church in Europe and a man by the name of Martin Luther. The church in that time was highly focused in on what you did, how you lived, your performance. Everyone carried a huge weight upon them that that performance would land them into a place that isn't even in the Bible—a place of purgatory—and that they would have to do something in their life to somehow shorten that that experience. This man, Martin Luther, wanted so bad to please God and he was so acutely aware of how sinful he was he was forever going and confessing his sins, but the more he confessed the more he realized he was falling short and coming up short. Then he did something that in that time was not encouraged like it is here today, he opened up his Bible to the book of Romans and he started reading. He learned that the just would live by faith. He began to recognize that works are not what brings you to God, but rather the grace of Jesus Christ and it was in that moment that he became overwhelmed. We're told it transformed his life to realize that he's not saved by works, but rather by the grace of Jesus. And it was that that led him to go and nail the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church almost exactly 500 years ago and begin what we know as today as the Protestant Reformation, around a list of things that we refer to as SOLA, "alone."



95 THESES

Last week we talked about *Scripture alone* because it was in that moment that he recognized the truth is here [Bible] and I need to dig into it and understand it and when I do it will lighten me, it will free me of some of the stuff that I've been told that wasn't truth. It'll keep me from error. And so he focused in on Scripture alone.

Another one that he focused in on was called¹ *grace alone*, SOLA grace, and it came as a result of him opening up to the book of Romans and reading. It's actually in that book of Romans—and by the way, I hope you have your Bibles with you today. I say this because I know what it's like. Oftentimes you go to church you think I don't need a Bible because they'll put it up on the screen. Then you get frustrated when it's not up there long enough or not enough of it's up there. You see, we don't want to make the same mistake that was made in that time that the person standing up here controls that. We want to be a people that have our Book, our Bible, in front of us. So if you're using an app, if that's how you do it and that works for you, if you'll go to Romans chapter 4 right now. If you have a hardcopy Bible, I'm old school, I just preach right out of this Book, would love for you to turn to this book, Romans chapter 4. In fact, we're gonna study Romans chapters 4, 5 & 6 today. There is so, so, so much in these three chapters we could spend the next five years studying these three chapters. We're gonna spend the next two weeks studying them. The next SOLA is faith and there's a lot about faith in here in these three chapters and what I'm gonna throw out to you is would you this week read chapters 4, 5 & 6? Can I encourage you? Don't just read them through real quick; really meditate on them, maybe dig a little bit deeper into it, try to study it, try to come to an understanding of it, because what we say in here is going to just be so much more meaningful if you'll do that, so Romans 4, 5 & 6.

And also you'll notice on your program, on the one side we always had just a big picture of the sermon series. We actually put a white area on the bottom of this now so that you can take notes on this and everything I'm gonna say I wrote notes on and is on mine today. So if I can say everything I'm gonna say under that white area, certainly you can fit everything you need to in that white area. So I encourage you to take notes. This is gonna be some of the heaviest, deepest stuff that I've ever shared and the Word of God has so much to say in this area.

¹ Photo credit: 95 Theses obtained from Google Images.

In Romans chapter 4, just like Martin Luther was dealing with a system that had been a system of works that he was weighted down on and lived his life under this constant fear and condemnation, so there was a group of Jews in this time that the Apostle Paul was writing to and he writes to them. And in so doing under the inspiration of the Spirit of God it's passed on to us. And basically they were a group of people that followed a set of rules, and they were under these rules and they kept on trying to figure out how to fulfill these rules to somehow get to God and get God happy with them. And the Apostle Paul says to them in Romans chapter 4, and that's why it's so important, he says to them, "Here's what you need to know. Your forefathers that you really, really think highly of, they didn't live by a set of rules. In fact, they didn't get to God by a set of rules. They weren't made righteous by a set of rules. You aren't either." And then he goes and he gives the example of two of their forefathers—Abraham, and you've probably heard of Abraham, the father of Judaism, and David, you've probably heard of David, King David, the greatest king and their favorite king—and he gives an example for both of them and that's what you'll find in chapter 4. And here's what he's saying: You never got to God through your works. It has *always* been by grace through faith in Jesus and believing God alone. So listen to this, if you have your Bibles open to Romans chapter 4, it says this, Romans 4:1:

¹ *“What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?*

² *For if Abraham was justified by works,*

— here we go —

he has something to boast about, but not before God.

— Capture that? —

³ *For what does the Scripture say?*

— now he's taking them back to their stuff, the stuff that they get —

“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

It was never the law that was getting us to God; it was just given to help us know that we can't get there on our own. *“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”* And then, then he uses King David, their favorite king. You remember King David, this same guy committed adultery with Bathsheba. What we're talking about, this guy carried some huge, huge sins that—listen to verse 6:

⁶ *just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:*

— listen to these—

⁷ *“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;*

⁸ *blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”*

~ ROMANS 4:1-3, 6-8

What Paul is trying to say here is, "Guys, listen, hear me, stop allowing this system of I gotta do a bunch of stuff to get to God weighing you down because it's not correct." As Martin Luther's reading this his eyes are opening up going, "Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! This isn't what I've been taught! This isn't what I've been hearing. This isn't how I've been living. I want to hear more."

But, mentioned a guy in history some 500 years ago. I've gone to the Bible and talked to you about the Apostle Paul addressing—after the death of Jesus the burial and the resurrection of Jesus—addressing a

group of Jews that, "Hey, listen, stop depending on all these rituals and rites to get to God. Come up to the present time for a moment."

So when I was very young I got this image in my head and it came as a result of the teaching of Romans chapter 10, verse 4, that talks about we're all going to someday stand before the judgment seat of God and that sounded ominous to me. I didn't fully understand what I'm about to share with you about the picture of grace, and I didn't fully grasp God with his arms wide open, and so I pictured long before in churches there was a screen as wide as the front of the church and as tall as the front of the church. I pictured a screen where I stood in front of God and I was told that everything that I ever did would be shown on there that was wrong. Yuck. They didn't stop there. They told me that every thought I ever had would be shown on that screen for all to see and for God to see. Uhhh, that weighed over me. Can you imagine right now if I had this, like, board in front of me and, "I seek #36," and your thoughts pop up on the board. [*He screams.*] Talk about a burden! I mean, it was a great behavior modifier; a horrific weight to carry around all the time. And I will just throw out to you I assume most of you in this room have a story of the religious system that you have come up under and a weight that you feel by what you were told you had to do and keep on doing; that if you didn't do [*slaps his wrist/top of hand*] or maybe way worse. And so today I want to talk to you about what we find in the book of Romans, chapter 5: Grace alone.

Sola Grace is what Martin Luther found as he began to dig in here; this huge theological term that has so much more significance. You've heard people say to you, "It's by the grace of God." "Yeah, if it weren't for the grace of God..." and you go, "Yeah, yeah, yeah," and it just sort of passes off almost like a saying, almost like when you sneeze and someone says, "God bless you." You don't you really stop and really think of the gravity of about what is about to be said. So we take the word grace and we say, "Class, what what's the word grace mean?" And, uhm, probably quickly many of you who are student would answer correctly, "God's unmerited favor; something that I don't deserve, something that I haven't earned." Does that sound correct? Are you good with that? You're giving the right answer. I told you the truth. You see, it is something that God gives you for no good reason [other] than He wanted to. Wow!

Ever been in that situation, someone walks up to you, "I know you don't know me, I don't know you, but I want to give you this," and they give you something phenomenal? I was thinking of an illustration of this this week. I thought I'd probably just pull out a hundred dollar bill and walk up to one of you and give it to you, but I didn't want to lose a hundred dollar bill though because I'm selfish. [*Laughter.*] You get the idea though, right? And you've had that happen. You're like, "Why me? Why'd you choose me?" And you sort of feel awkward, you sort of feel weird, you don't know what to do with it. "No, no, no. It's just because. Because I want to do that for you." Unmerited favor, nothing in and of myself that deserves it.

Now we understand, unlike what most people try to tell us, you know, "You're amazing," we understand we're not. We understand that we are quick to shout out, "Well, you know, I failed." "I mess up." "I come up short." No, no, no, no. We come up *way* short. We come up so much shorter than we ever could imagine. And then have God come up to us and say, "Just because. This is my gift to you. This is what I want to give to you. You didn't earn it. You can't do anything to get this. I give it to you because I love you." And we go, "That blows my mind. I don't even understand that kind of love." We struggle, we struggle with that kind of thing. We want to somehow to take this grace—we're okay with that, that God would do something for us that we couldn't do for ourselves—but in that moment we want to say, "But don't you think I ought to add something to it like going to church or giving money or, I don't know, confessing something, or maybe some sort of a ritual or reading my Bible a certain amount

of hours a day or praying or fasting?" You come up with it, you have your own list that you've been given. We struggle because we get it that it's grace, but we always want to add something else to it. And this is where we realize as we study our Bibles it's SOLA grace, it's grace *alone*.

Why do we struggle with that? Because we're super, super focused in on me. In that moment I can say, "I did something," and I feel good about myself. I feel good about myself that I disciplined myself to do this constantly, and I sure hope that God saw that and God's good with that. It's about me, though. It's about me and what I think of myself and what I want to see in myself; instead, what of grace is all about is us looking to God, looking to Christ, looking to the cross, and saying, "It's all about Him." That's what grace is. None of me; all Him.

You're walking along the street, someone you've never seen, someone you'll never see again, comes and hands you something amazing and you go, "You must have gotten the wrong person. Something must be wrong here." No, it had nothing to do with you. It's what I wanted to do. God says, "I came down and I chose you and I love you; not because of anything you did, but because I love you."

All right, let's chase this down in the book of Romans chapter 5. There is so much here it's crazy. I'd like to take you there for a few moments. Romans chapter 5, verse 1:

¹ Therefore,

By the way, all he's doing there—you know when you read your Bible, these chapters references that says like 5 or 5, 1, 2, 3, 4 – those were put in long after the Bible was written. They're just there to help us so we can find stuff. They're not inspired by God. So as Paul was writing that previous section saying, "Hey, listen, your forefathers didn't get here because of the rituals they did. They didn't get there because of circumcision. They didn't get there because of how much they did. Hey, they got there because they believed God." Then he says, "*Therefore,*"—links it altogether; he's going right back to that. He's linking it together, it's not a separate topic, it's a continuation of the thought. He says:

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,

— Oh, huge word, "justified"; huge subject, "faith"— that's what we're going to talk about next week, faith alone. You've got to come back next week. You gotta grab this. This is like, I just want to tell you, there's some huge, huge subjects in here. So I'm going to blow by that, but it's nothing to be blown by. We'll take our time there next week.

we have peace with God

— If your world's churned up this week, you need to come back next week so we can understand that.

through our Lord Jesus Christ.

— Two weeks from now we'll be doing SOLA Christ, Christ alone. You see, these words are all coming together here. We'll continue on, listen to this, verse 2; this is where I want you to hang out for a few minutes.

² Through him we have also obtained access

— If you have your Bible in front of you or you have that app, underline that, highlight that, circle that; that word "access" is big. We have obtained access:

by faith into this grace

— So faith is the thing that is going to activate this grace, we'll talk about that next week. We have access by faith into this grace:

in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

~ ROMANS 5:1-2

I want you to hear this for a moment. Back then, those reading this for the first time, these Jewish people that Paul is writing to, they have always understood that if they wanted to come before God it had to be through a priest at the Holy of Holies in the temple and that priest would only get the opportunity to come into the presence of God one time a year. And that priest couldn't just come in in any old which way that he wanted to come in. There were all sorts of expressions of purification and preparation to go before God, the Holy God of the universe, that that priest had to go through. There were some that blew that off and said, "I'm gonna go to God *my way*," and they were killed on the spot. By the way, keep that in mind. Those of you who are into designer religion, like, "I'll create my own way to God"—it doesn't work that way. It just doesn't. And so they knew that one time a year this priest would prepare to go before a Holy God and in the understanding that if he went in the wrong way before God that he would die. They actually hooked up ropes to this guy, put bells on him, like if the bells stopped ringing they realized he was dead and they'd drag him out. This was a big deal going before God, and they recognized what a big deal on this one day a year this was.

BUT—when Jesus hung and died on the cross and he said, "It is finished," the veil in the temple, you may remember, was ripped and it opened up access for *us* to go to God through Jesus Christ. Something radically changes. That's the access that he says here; access through the grace of Jesus Christ. This is unbelievable information; for them at that time who were struggling with the fact that they did not have access, for us today. Here we talk about prayer oftentimes. We talk about, you know, learning how to pray and encouraging each other to pray and stimulating each other to pray and trying to find ways to get you to pray. My friends, hear me, we'd be crazy not to be praying. Why wouldn't we be praying? We now have access to the King of Glory. We have access to God Himself through Jesus Christ because of what Jesus did on the cross.

Let me tell you what, if you're sitting in this room right now and you are struggling with loneliness, can I introduce you to the grace of Jesus Christ? Because of the grace of Jesus Christ you have access to the throne of God. Wow! Hebrews says as a result we can come boldly before the throne of God.² You don't need to be lonely any longer. You're struggling today with fear and worry, all sorts of things have you tied up in a knot today. I read this and I realize that because of the grace of Jesus Christ, I have access through Jesus to God Himself. You, because of the grace of Jesus, have access to God. Are you getting it? And then he says, "*Grace in which we stand.*" Imagine, imagine that because of Christ we no longer have to go through all these rituals. We no longer have to go through all these cleansings and these purifications to go in before God; but now we not only have access but when we go there we can stand boldly before God Himself *only* because of what took place on the cross at Calvary with Jesus Christ. Wow. This is phenomenal news!

I want you to know this is more than just theological mumbo-jumbo. This is life-changing. Martin Luther felt totally weighted down by his sin; constantly condemned, constantly under the thumb, never knowing whether he measured up, never knowing that if he was good enough today or if he might mess

² *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* ~ HEBREWS 4:14-16

up tomorrow and that might be enough to end it. That weight and that burden eventually tears you down. I know people who have given up, walked away and said, "I can't be good enough. I'd rather just let it all hang out and just blow it off because I can't get to God." And Paul says you now have access by the grace of God by which you can stand before the King of the universe.

Check this out. Paul is saying when you have Jesus in your life it's as if the King of the universe grabs your hand and says, "Let me walk you into the throne room of God and stand there boldly." Wow. Church, I want you to walk out of here boldly today because of that. I want—if you came in here carrying a heavy weight, you ought to walk out of here today saying, "By the grace of God." That's not some downer phrase going [*groans*], "If God just somehow will help me." No! He's empowering you because of the grace of God, because of Jesus. You should live in a totally different way. You should no longer be letting your head hang down. When people see you it should change your response, your very countenance because of the grace of God, and if that were to be the case people would look at you and say, "What do you have? I want some of that. I want a lot of that. I want more of that."

But you might say to me, "How far does that go?" I understand that a lot of these people are church people in here and that gets us from time to time after a service, "But you don't know me. You might have put a security guard on me had you known where I've been, what I've done. You may have been freaking out if you had known me coming into this room today. So where is that limit, Pastor? I know the grace of God for the average person in this room, but, mmm, what about me? How far does that go?" If you still have Romans chapter 5, open look down to verse 20. Right there in the middle of verse 20, listen to these words:

^{20b} but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ ROMANS 5:20b-21

Where do you get eternal life? Through the grace given to you by Jesus Christ. Where do you overcome death and sin and all the weight and burden that is on you today? Through that; through the grace of Jesus Christ. So let's do this for a moment. Let's back up a tad bit more in the chapter. He gives us a little more explanation to understand a little bit of the backdrop in all of this. I'd like to take you back to verse 12 because here he explains what's going on; he explains the background behind all of this.

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man,

— Do you remember who that one man was? Adam. Do you believe Adam was a historical figure that actually lived? Yes. The Bible is not a metaphor. God has given this to you to understand truth. Through one man, Adam, sin entered the world:

and death through sin,

— That is physical, that is spiritual separation. That is physical separation from God, that has separated us from God, sin; death, that separation that separates us from this life, from each other, the yuck that goes on between us, that separates us from each other—that's sin. All of that came through Adam who represented all of humanity. He was the representative of all humanity. As a result, that sin has come to us. Now, hang with me a moment and keep reading. It says:

and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

~ ROMANS 5:12

Now just keep glancing down to verse 15:

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass.

— This grace, that is a free gift. It's not something you can earn or deserve. That person that comes up to you on the street and hands it to you. They've never seen you before. They don't know you. For some reason they chose you. That free gift is handed to you is not like the trespass. It's not like what Adam did that separates us from God, that separates from each other; death, both spiritual and physical. Listen:

^{15b} For if many died through one man's trespass,

— Listen to these next words; I underlined it, I circled it, I highlighted it in orange marker —

much more

— I'm going to say that word a couple times because it's listed a couple times —

*have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ
abounded for many.*

~ ROMANS 5:15

So now all of a sudden you have Adam, who was a representative of all humanity, and here you have Jesus, who represents us before God. And what Paul wants to know is, "Hey, listen. Because of Adam we all are messed up with sin. As long as we're attached to this earth we're going to struggle with that. But because of one man who represented us, Jesus Christ," he says, "much, much, much, much more the grace of Jesus is upon us." If the curse of death has messed up [RECORDING VOLUME LAPSE 15:05.2-15:00:9] the grace of Jesus, he says, much more has been handed to us and given it to us.

If you're tired of being under a weight and burden of rules and of performance of trying to get there your way, or for that matter someone else's way, remember: Every man-made religion is based on a set of rules of what you need to do to somehow please God and you eventually throw up your hands in frustration going, "I can't do it." But the grace of God is God handing you this and saying, "This is for you. This is my gift. It is a free gift." And he says here these words, "*much more.*" Look down, see it again, verse 17:

¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man,

— Who was that one man? Adam —

much more

— same words, you just saw them up in verse 15, now we're in verse 17 —

will those who receive the

— here's the word again —

*abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man
Jesus Christ.*

~ ROMANS 5:17

Death through man, Adam; much, much, much more grace offered to us through Jesus Christ. That's your gift. Receive it. Accept it. Live by it. Be overwhelmed by it today. Be amazed by it today. Let it change you.

So I asked myself a question, "Now what?" You see, the "now what" is *Okay, I have this grace but, yeah, I probably have to do something. Right?* Because we're always wanting to be amazed by grace but then add some things to it. And so that we practically work out and work our way to God. And Paul predicted we would have that struggle because we struggle because we all work for things. Chapter 6 opens up and says:

¹ *What shall we say then?*

— And sort of like the last chapter, he's continuing to flow in the same thought process. "*What shall we say then?*" Then he asks the question:

Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

— Remember what I read in verse 20, ^{20b} "*but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.*" So should we just keep on sinning because—in other words, that guy that said we'd probably need a security guard around here today, maybe I need to go that way so I could have a little more of this grace put on me so I can live with this amazing grace that you're talking about. The Apostle Paul says:

² *By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?*

~ ROMANS 6:1-2

How can we who have been people who have understood the expression of grace of the cross, of this unmerited favor, of this thing where He says, "I'm doing it for you because I can"—how can we [*he pauses*]*—*that grace that is free, how we can cheapen that?

Let me try to explain it this way. I had a birthday recently and on my birthday my daughter gave me a watch. You've gotta understand, I love watches. I have a watch case on my wife's dresser, all of my watches neatly laid out in it. I love watches. I spend too much money on batteries to keep them all running. I love watches. And my daughter knows that and we've talked for a lot of years if I could have a nice watch what would I have? And this summer my daughter has worked around the clock and she evidently decided that daddy was going to get a nice watch this year, and the watch daddy wanted more than any other watch. Now on my birthday when I opened up that gift there was that watch. Truly the most expensive watch I've ever owned. She cried. I cried. You know, I've got to tell you that I will wear this watch for the rest of my life because of this amazing gift that she, who I love so much, gave to me.

Now I gotta tell you a little different story before I come back to that. We have a little problem in my household. My wife will buy me nice shorts to wear down at the shore and a nice shirt to wear with those nice shorts and she'll give them to me and then I'll be out walking around the outside of the house and I'll see something that needs to be done and I'll grab a shovel and before long I'm out there digging and pushing a wheelbarrow and I come in and these beautiful beige shorts are covered in mud and in grass and in water and the shirt is stained with oil and all sorts of stuff and she just says, "I can't buy you anything nice because you always go out and work in the yard in it and ruin it." Any of you guys have the same problem? One or two of you? It's a crazy problem I've got but I've got to tell you something that I know for certain. I know who gave me this watch. I know the sacrifice that was made to give me this watch. I know the absolute love and thought and care given in giving me this watch and I will

never, ever consider wearing it to dig a hole for a tree. [*Laughter.*] This watch was free to me, but it was not cheap.

Here's what I want you to hear: This grace is a free gift to every one of us, but it is not cheap. And anyone who has ever been a recipient of the grace of our lovely Savior, Jesus Christ, who offered it to you and to me without cost because He could, because He wanted to, because He loved you, I would never stomp on that grace. It may be free, but it's not cheap. It came at the cost of His life and He would do it again because He loves me.

The Apostle Paul at the end of the chapter, Chapter 6, in verse 12 says:

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

— now listen to this —

¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

~ ROMANS 6:12-14

Oh, that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ could fall on us today.

Now I resist this morning. I – there's something inside of me that wants to make sure that every message that is preached in this room is incredibly practical and I fear slightly that I do that to the harm of the message of the grace alone, of Jesus, of Sola Grace; that somehow we leave here getting the message, "Okay, I got one more thing. I got it. I got it. I can do it. I can do it. I think I can. I can work on that this week and I can get there." I want you to know that you have been saved by grace alone and I would love for you to leave here today not carrying that weight, not carrying that burden, but trusting in Jesus alone for that salvation that He offers every one of you.

And so I invite you right now, would you just bow your heads. Would you allow that grace to fall upon you? Would you receive the grace of God into your life?

O Jesus, we need that grace this morning. Lord Jesus, let it change us. I pray that this message of the cross and the grace brought to us because of your lovely Son, Jesus, O Lord, I pray that it would penetrate deeply. I pray that it causes us to leave here just different. I'll take the way to guilt, the burden of our sin. Thank you for letting it be placed on your darling Son, Jesus.

Lord God, we're going to give our gifts back to You right now, but not – not because we're trying to somehow impress You with them; not because somehow that might get us somewhere. Lord Jesus, we give it to You because we see You gave all. We love giving back. We love You, Jesus.

Church, could I hear those words, "I love you, Jesus"?

In Your Name we pray. Amen.

If you did come prepared to give, there are buckets at the end of each row. If you're sitting on the ends, if you'd just take that and pass that across and give your gifts to the Lord right now. This next song it basically says everything I've just said, but the sound is much prettier. Let these words sink deep in you and as you're able just to sing them out and lift up your praises.

[Music]

Lord God,

I just want to pray over each person in this room; for those in this room that have never experienced what we have talked about what, we've sung of. I pray that right now they would just give up and give in to You and let You be the Savior of their lives; that they would accept that grace to fall upon them. That they would do even as the Scripture said today Abraham did and believed God. That you sent your only begotten Son that whoever would believe on Him would not perish but have everlasting life. And so I pray that people all over this room right now that may never have bowed their knee to You right this very moment would say, "Yes, Jesus, I want to believe in You. I want that grace on my life."

And Lord, I pray we'll just each leave here just [he exhales] feel lighter, freed, and we'll take that grace and just be blown away by it not forgetting that every time we look down at our watch remember the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Would You bless my brothers and sisters in this room right now, Lord God? Take that burden off their shoulders; lift them up as they walk out of here. This week I pray that people see them and they'll go, "Why are you like you are this week?" I pray that they'll be able to share that the King of Glory came down and gave them a gift they didn't deserve and it changed everything.

We love you Jesus; we love You so much.

It's in Your Name we pray. Amen.

Hey, before you leave here, yes, yes, [applause]. Listen, we have people that want to pray with you. We believe you should never carry a burden out of here. We have people in red shirts; if you see them around, say, "Can you pray for me about this thing?" Back through those doors right there we have a Prayer Chapel; a big blackboard, write your prayer requests on that blackboard. We pray over those. There are people back there waiting to pray with you. Go back there and tell them, "Can you pray with me?" And then before you leave, can you just encourage someone around you? This ought to be the most encouraging hour of the morning and I hope it already has been. Don't rush out of here. Just reach out and encourage each other, bless each other.

Check out the table for Operation Christmas. Our Christmas project starts early. These gifts that we gather together, in about three weeks we'll have a packing party after this service. We'll fill up these boxes and pray over them and send them all over the world. It's just the coolest thing. And each of these kids get the gospel, they get disciplined. More is happening through this than just about any other tool, so when you go out and buy school supplies for them this week and put them in those big barrels out here—they're not trash cans—it will make a huge difference in a kid's life because they will hear the gospel. Take the gospel from here this week and take it out and spread it to everyone you get.

The grace of God be upon you. Amen. Have a wonderful Sunday. You're dismissed.

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/239358727>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/TYQzQOYVFrw>

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