

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

DATE

July 9, 2017

SPEAKER

Dave Owen

SERIES

Planting The Gospel

PART

2

TITLE

Live Authentically

SCRIPTURE

Titus 3:1-8



© 2017 Providence Baptist Church (Raleigh, NC)

Sermon transcripts may be used for preaching and teaching purposes, but may not be published or sold. While generally accurate, parts of this transcript may contain errors.

Providence reserves the right to correct and/or remove a transcript at any time.

If you have your Bibles, let's take them and open to the book of Titus, and if you're new to Christianity or just maybe even new to Bible, or you're exploring and don't have a Bible, we want to give you one. Under the seat in front of you, there should be one, and you can take that, and we'll be on 999, and we'll say a welcome to those that are in the venues, and also live streaming. Maybe you're away for vacation, so grateful you joined as well, and so thank you for being with us.

Before we dive in, let me go ahead and address what will come because I preach with my hands moving. When I do this, you'll see a lot of marks on my hands. I got in a fight at the gym trying to share the Gospel this week. Just kidding. That's not the want to share the Gospel. I was helping a neighbor clean out a bunch of weeds, and I got into some poison oak and some poison ivy, and I want to go give this neighbor a big hug and rub it on his back. That's terrible. Got some medicine, on steroids, and always wanted to do steroids, but now I had the opportunity to do them. It's all over me, so I'm trying to get rid of it, but it's not contagious. Don't just come give me a hug after the service.

Here's what I want to do. For the last week, and for the rest of this month in July, we're walking through a series called, Plant the Gospel, and the idea of that is that we, over the next three years, desire for our people, Providence, to see a thousand people come to faith in Christ. So, how is that going to be accomplished. What in the world needs to take place whether it's equipping and training, and so we wanted to take this month, to spend this month of July really unpacking some things that we feel like would be essential to helping equip us in this.

When that happens, when you see one born again in front again, spiritually being moved from death to life, things happen. Joy explodes, and faith grows, and worship deepens. I remember the first time I saw someone come to faith, I didn't know ... I was a 25-year-old, I didn't know I could actually lead someone to Christ, I thought I needed to maybe call Billy Graham, I don't have his number, but I just thought ... He did it or the pastor did. How does this work. How does a person who feels inadequate, a person who feels unworthy, share about a Holy God, and it was a lot of tension in my own soul, and then I realized and read truths from God's Word that said, He actually works through weakness which is really encouraging because I feel weak a lot, and so ended up, I was at a camp down in West Palm Beach, Florida. My background was golf so I was teaching a golf clinic there, and then I was also doing some Bible studies and helping guys learn how to swing a club and also study the Word.

This particular night, a young guy named Steve came to my door, was broken over sin, convicted by the Gospel and wanted to trust Christ, and I'll just never forget that night. The Lord burned it in my heart to be able to see and witness this young guy experiencing salvation. He left, and then I began to weep, overwhelmed with gratitude by God to be able to be used. And then the next day, the joy began to grow, and faith began to deepen, and worship was there, and so I was out on the course with a group of guys. We were playing a little tournament within the camp.

I remember it was like the sixth hole was a par five. I remember the fairway. We were in the fairway, and this young kid didn't want to play anymore until he had Christ in his life, and so we just got on our knees right there in the fairway at the golf course, and he trusted Jesus, and I was like, "Man, this is amazing to be able to watch that."

We want you ... Studies show that the majority of evangelical Christians have never experienced the sweetness of seeing someone being born spiritual, be born again. It's not lights that go off. There's a spiritual transaction that takes place, literally, of going from death to life, and I love having these conversations with people. It's hard for me, but I love seeing folks inquire about God and come to know God in a personal way, and what's amazing is that the scriptures always kind of lean in. If I'm at a coffee shop, I kind of lean in if someone has just trusted Christ with me, that the angels ... I let them know that the angels in Heaven are rejoicing over what has just taken place, and then I want to stand up and shout in the coffee shop, but I don't. I'm just like this is greatest decision you will ever make in your entire life.

So to be able to think through this together this morning is a joy. I want to address really quick before we dive in, those that don't know Christ, if you're watching or if you're here in this room this morning, we're so grateful you're here. We want you to know that we're trying to grow in our ways of connecting with you and reaching you, but before we even get into a sermon about that, we want to just ask for your forgiveness for maybe some of the ways that we haven't done this the most healthiest way and the best way, but we're striving. We do want you to know Jesus if you don't. We want to do everything we can to communicate clearly and effectively, and winsomely and graciously, and we want you to come to faith in Jesus, but we just want to apologize upfront that we haven't always done that the best way. So forgive us.

If you are a believer, immediately when you talk about this topic, Brian addressed it last week, and if I just want to mention it this week, that there is a ton of fear and guilt that will flood your soul. The enemy will whisper this in your ear of fear of what others will think, of guilt of not doing it, and what we want to do, is we want to come along side you and build faith and just lavish grace on you. We'd rather grace you into sharing than you guilt you into sharing, because when you're graced into sharing, you're remembering all that He's done. You're walking in the grace of God and what God's accomplished, and you're contemplating these things, and then it comes out of the heart and out of the mouth, and God just uses it. The Spirit of God takes that and uses that in a powerful way to convey the truth of the Gospel.

See, if cancer had a cure, we would spread the word quickly out of joy, not out of guilt. No, out of joy. So how much more should we, who have a cure for sin and death, out of joy, share this good news. And what we're going to do, I want to encourage you. I know summertime is choppy sometimes with vacations and in town, out of town, so if you miss one of these five weeks, I want to really encourage you to go back online and watch it online and be equipped because it's sort of like ... These five weeks that we're doing is sort of like ingredients.

I love baking some brownies sometimes. I've ever memoried the recipe which is kind of sick, but it's like 2 eggs, a cup of water, a fourth of a cup of oil. I throw some chocolate chips in there for them to melt and make it a little chocolatey, and then the actual batter, the mix that comes in the box. And once you put it in that Kitchen Aid and spin it around and get it all ... I always like to taste it, which my wife isn't too excited about, and then once you put it in the oven, and you bake it, never, ever, never can you take those eggs out and take that water and all the ingredients. No, they're baked, and each of those ingredients isolated are limited in capacity of what they could accomplish, but in that brownie mix, they make some good desert, and especially when they're warm and you cut them and ice cream. I might make some this afternoon as I'm even thinking about it.

But so it is spiritually with each of these ingredients. Isolated. Like next week, we're going to talk about prayer. Prayer is good. We could talk about it in certain capacities, but isolated by itself. When we think about evangelism and sharing our faith, these five things that we're going talk about, it's sort of like putting it in the oven of the heart and allowing God to use it all at once.

The five things that we're going to be talking through are going to be ... Last week was remember clearly. Today we're going to look at live authentically. Next week, pray faithfully, and then the fourth week will be care personally, and then last, the end of July is share lovingly. And these are the things that we want to be able to equip you with and encourage you in.

This morning, the task of walking through living authentically, I want to just lay out sort of a mindset for you this morning of three truths that I want to share with you. I'm going to have them put on the board, this statement of three truths of how God grows authenticity in our lives. This is what I'm going to try to unpack from Titus, that gives evidence of a Gospel work and grants avenues for Gospel word.

So, in other words, as God's growing our authenticity, not perfection, but just a genuineness, a realness of loving Him, being loved by Him, that gives evidence to something's happened in our lives. There's a Gospel work that's taken place, and sometimes God will use that then to open doors, to grant an open door to be able to speak a Gospel word, a good word, a good news word.

In other words, I say it like this. We live in such a way that shows there's been a change. It can open doors to speak about the one who brought the change, and so as God does this in us and among us, we pray that he would open many doors as we strive, not to be perfect. No, no, there's one perfect one, that's Jesus, but that we strive to live authentic, repentive lives, and be genuine in our love for Him and love for each other, that God could use that in a great way.

If you would, take your Word, Titus chapter 3. Titus chapter 3. Now we're going to pick up in verse 3, but the context, this is an incredible book where Paul's writing a letter to one individual. He's writing to Titus. Now, Paul and Titus had gone on a mission trip. As they went on this mission trip to the Island of Crete, and they're at this island, Paul leaves, and he leaves Titus there.

Now, this not our new strategy for mission trips, okay? We're not going to invite you to go on a mission trip and then leave you at the place. So don't think we're getting any ideas here. But just think about this. He left them there. Probably, Titus in the New Testament is one of the few church planters. A lot of the letters that Paul's written in the New Testament are to churches that had already been planted, and Titus, here, is probably a church planter because in chapter 1, Paul's exhorted him to organize things around these leaders within the church, and then chapter 2 is how to teach sound doctrine and how to actually do life with each other within that context of the church, and then chapter 3, he's going to unpack these good works that you need to be doing to validate the Gospel word.

In chapter 1, let me just show you in verse 12, it says that one of the Cretins, a prophet of their own, one of their own people say, "Look, those that are Crete, they're liars. They're always lying. They're evil beasts, they're lazy gluttons." In Chapter 1 verse 16, he says, "They profess to know God, but they deny Him by the works. They're detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work." And so it's a mess here, so Paul's exhorting Titus with this word.

So I want to read verse 3 of chapter 3 through verse 8: For we, ourselves, were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another, but when the goodness and loving kindness of God, our Savior, appeared, He saved us. Not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior so that being justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Let's pray together. Father, thank you for this good word. We pray as we read it, it will read us. As we get in it, it would get in us, and that You would maybe rearrange some categories in our heart and in our mind that it's not a works-based salvation, but it's a salvation that works, that we can't earn this, but it's freely given, and then because it's freely given, then we work out of grace, not out of trying to gain favor with You but because You've shown favor in your Son toward us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died, and so teach us this morning we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

How does God cultivate authenticity in our life that validates the word that we speak, and wouldn't it be an amazing gift from God that we could be a people marked, not by hypocrisy but by hospitality and holiness and humility?

I was the poster child for hypocrisy when I was in college. I lived a certain way, but then I'd try to invite friends to church, and I mentally, emotionally, and spiritually in this battle, in this war of living a certain way, and yet wanting to try to give lip service to some things of truth and holiness, and yet my life didn't reflect it at all, and it made very little impact on any, because most would laugh when I would invite or try to get to go because I had just been in other settings with them doing other things, and they're like, "No, this doesn't even match up."

Oh but would God work in us humility and hospitality and holiness instead of hypocrisy. And listen, authenticity, it doesn't mean perfection. But it's a striving. It's a striving. It's a humility that when we mess up, we repent and confess, and we strive, and we don't look down on others, but we look up at Jesus all the time.

So I want to show you three truths here that will help grow this authenticity in hopes that it would grant Gospel conversations. The first truth is this: God shows us we were before Jesus saved us. Notice in verse 3, God shows us who we were before Jesus saved us. Paul is reminding Titus. He says, "For we, ourselves, were once." "For we, ourselves, were once." I think what made Paul's ministry so powerful is that he never got over who he was before he came to Christ.

He says to Titus as he's trying to encourage this brother. He says, "Listen." This is in chapter 3. You would think this would be in chapter 1, but no, he's continuing to remind him. He says, "No, we, ourselves, were once foolish, and we were disobedient. We were led astray. We were in bondage to passions and pleasures. We were passing the day in malice and envy. We were hated by others. We were hating one another." If the goodness and loving kindness of Christ had not appeared, this is where we would be for those who are in Christ. We, too, would be foolish. We would be deceived and led astray, imprisoned. We would be hating others, and hated by many.

Listen, and this is where unbelievers are. This is where you and I were apart from Christ, and so this causes us ... Watch this now ... This calls us to sympathize, not scorn. This moves in our heart. This moves us to a point that we wouldn't necessarily grumble against those who don't know. We would grieve in our hearts because we know what that's like. We once were in this place.

And so, unbelievers, listen, they're not our enemy. They're not a project. They're people, made in the image of God that we love and desire for them to know and experience God. To see who we were, is so helpful. Watch this, to ignite in our hearts both singing to Christ and sharing about Christ. John Piper, in an article that he wrote on remembering. He says it like this. He says, "Why do so many sing, but scarcely from the heart and with such blank expressions?"

Why are so few hearts breaking for the lost around them? Why do not more people say spontaneously the greatest thing in the world is to be saved? Why isn't the experience of salvation like the first morning of vacation with the sun rising over the lake and the air crisp and clear and the fish biting and the bacon sizzling? And all the family healthy and happy? Instead of being like a gray, drizzly day with a hole in the tent and everyone grumbling. Why is lukewarm love for Christ so common and white hot devotion so rare?

One of the reasons is this. You can't bring the burner of commitment and affection up to white hot if you short circuit God's heating element and forget who you were apart from Christ. Part of God's heating element to intensify our affection and deepen our devotion is the command, to remember. To remember.

Ephesians chapter 2 says it like this: "Remember that you were, at that time, separated from Christ." 1 Corinthians 15 ... 1 Corinthians is a long letter, 16 chapters. Paul starts in chapter 1 about the cross. Chapter 15 is the resurrection, and he says, "I want to remind you brothers, of the gospel." This is at the end of his letter. He's already explained many things, but he says, "I'm going to remind you again of the gospel that I preached to you in which you received and which you stand and what which you're being saved if you hold fast to the word I preach to you unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as a first importance that also, which I received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures.

2 Peter. Think about 2 Peter. This is the one who's denied Christ at the end there, and God uses to him. He restores him, we learn in John 21, and then at Pentecost in Acts 2, he's standing to preach, and Peter, in his second letter before he's going to be martyred for following Jesus, he says this: "I think it right as long as I'm in the body to stir you up by way of reminder since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon." He's about to faith death. "As our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things."

The Christian life is a life of remembering who we were before Christ. This is why we gave you a tool last week. If you haven't got that tool, we want to get it out back in the lobby, to grab one of those booklets or online or on our app. It's just five devotions that are very short that just help you think through how to write your story about your life before Christ, how you came to Christ, and then what life has been coming to Christ. So this exhortation, this morning in way of application is let's remember the Gospel and how it changed us. Let's never ... Listen. Listen to this. If you get over the fact that God has saved you, it's a good indicator that maybe you may not be saved. Contemplate that. Really press in. The scriptures say in Corinthians to evaluate your heart. To test these things to see if you're in the faith. And so, let's remember the Gospel and how it changed us.

The second truth I want to share with you this morning is this is that God saves us. God saves us through Jesus by the Holy Spirit regenerating and renewing our heart. The Father planned this. The son executed this, and the Spirit accomplishes this. You see this in chapters 3 verses 4 through 7, and look at 4 through 7. 4 through 7 in the original Greek is all one sentence. It's like Paul sometimes loses his grammar techniques when writing when he get caught and overwhelmed of what God has done in his life. He just begins to write, and notice what he says. He says, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared." "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared. We, ourselves, were once foolish. This is how we lived, but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared."

When did He appear? When did He come on the scene? When did the Savoir appear? When did the promise, when did the promise of Genesis chapter 3 that there'll be one who will come and make things right? When did he appear? When did he come on the scene? Was it David? No, it wasn't David. Not it was a baby born in a manger who was given the name, Jesus, who would save his people from his sins. This is when he appeared. What did He do? What did He do? He saved us.

Notice verse 5. Verse 5 is this one who appeared who says then in these three powerful words, "He saved us." This why Luke and his gospel would write as the birth announcement. We're going to go Christmastime real quick. The birth announcement didn't list on that birth announcement the weight of this baby or the time of this baby or the full name, how we send these announcements to give specific details, how long the baby is, how much the baby weighs, and it's a cute picture, and we put it on the refrigerator for about two weeks, and then it's gone.

No, Luke's announcement of the Son of God being born on Earth came like this, For unto you is born this day a Savior who will save His people from their sins. That's the birth announcement that came with King Jesus. Oh what did He do? Oh He saved us, and notice how He does this. It's not because of works done by us in righteousness. No, but according to his own mercy. Notice the text. I love the way the text is written. He saved us, and I'm thinking the next line would be how He did it, and what does He do? He tells us how we're not to do it, in a sense. He says very specifically, parenthetically before He gets to mercy and regeneration, but there's an incredible line right after He saved us that I believe hits the core of many, if not all. He says He saved not because of works done by us in righteousness. What's he addressing there? He's addressing the propensity of every human heart to validate themselves by the good things they do in hopes that it will be enough to be made right with God or at least to be looked upon by God as good enough to get into Heaven.

And this is what every rural religion will teach. Every rural religion other than Christianity will teach you have to work your way. You have to a certain amount of good things in order to be loved by God if there is a God in that world religion system, and Christianity is just the opposite. Christianity is acknowledging none of us are good enough to do enough good works to be loved and merit that favor, and he's addressing this specifically.

There were two brothers that had bought into a works righteousness. You may know these names. We've sung their songs for years, but John and Charles Wesley, studying there in the 1700's in Oxford University. They were actually labeled the Methodists because their methods in seeking God were so rigid and so ... It was profound, the way they dedicated themselves to these things, and at the core of their heart, they were banking on these things to make themselves right with God. They would go on mission trips. They would do ministry down in Georgia actually, and then go back to Europe, and then they both, within a short period of time of one another, were reading and being read by another brother or friend a commentary by Martin Luther on the book of Galatians, and by Martin Luther on the book of Romans, and both, within a short period of time, felt they were born again by God and realized finally, that it was nothing they could do to earn their way.

“One would say this, what have we then nothing to do. No, nothing, but only accept of Him who of God has made for us our wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. There came such a power of me as I cannot well describe. My great burden fell off in an instant.” Charles Wesley says. “My heart was so filled with peace and love that I burst into tears. I had been trying to be my own savior.”

This is why he would later write, “And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?” John Wesley, reading Romans commentary by Luther said, “I was listening to someone read Luther, and felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone finally for salvation, and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins.”

This is what He does. How does He do it? It's not because of the works done in righteousness, no. It's by His mercy. And how does he do it by His mercy? It's the washing of regeneration. Verse 5. This word regeneration it's that same idea of a regenesis, a rebirth. The term being born again. So let's understand something in Christianity. It's not that we take some paint and put over the cracks in the wall. No, we need new walls. We need a new home. We're not just putting a bandaid on some bad things come out of our heart. We need to be born again, not physically, but spiritually, and this is what the Spirit of God ... This is what the Holy Spirit of God. It's an amazing miracle at the preaching of the gospel with the sharing of the gospel when the good news of what God's accomplished comes out of your mouth, this is what happens. And this coffee conversation with coworker or lunch with a family member. The gospel comes out of your heart. Grace, grace comes winsomely speaking this, and you're sharing that God made you and we all fall short of the Glory of God, and yet God sent His son, Jesus to die for our sin, and He rose from the dead to validate that what He did is sufficient.

And as you're saying these words, the Spirit of God who's the Holy Spirit of God, takes the message of the Gospel and begins to open the eyes of that person that you're sharing with and begins to invade their heart, and it causes their heart to be born again when they believe, have faith and have trust.

It's a regeneration. It's also a renewal. Look at the text. The text says it's not only by the washing of regeneration, but the renewal of the Holy Spirit. New life emerges. There's a renewal to everything then from there forward. Everything changes, and the Spirit of God begins to convict of sin and of righteousness, the meaning not the righteousness that you do to be accepted, but the righteous things that you do. There's a smile upon God's face when you're walking in holiness, and there's a feeling of God's pleasure, and then of [inaudible 00:31:49] when we fall short. There's a conscious awareness of these things by the spirit of God that does these things.

Notice what happens. We become a new creation 2 Corinthians says. We're receiving this new life, being born again, and where does He do it? Look at verse 6, "Whom He poured on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior." Where does He do this? He does it at the cross, at the cross where Christ was crucified. And why does He do it? He does it verse 7, "So that being justified, being made right by grace, by grace, we might become heirs according the hope of eternal life."

So why he does it, so that we become heirs. We become children, daughters, and sons of the Most High God. And there's a hope that comes. There's a hope that comes when you know you're an heir of the Son of God himself, co-heirs with Christ in one sense as Romans teaches. Then the hope begins to flood the soul, that eternal life is coming apart from sin and chaos.

So listen, listen. When we savor these things that God saves us. When we savor these things, the Gospel in and of itself becomes the greatest resource for us to share the Gospel. You think about that for a moment, right? It's not a tactic. It's not just some strategy. It's the essence of the good news being applied to your heart to awaken affections that mobilizes and moves you to open your mouth and share the good news. And so the gospel, yes, let's remember, but let's rejoice. Let's rejoice in all God has done for us in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. In Jesus, through the Holy Spirit.

And third, and finally is this is that God sends us to do good works to show the great worth of Jesus. God sends us to do good works to show the great worth of Jesus. Notice verse 8. "This saying is trustworthy I want you to insist on these things so that those who believed in God" ... Watch what the text says ... "May be careful to devote themselves to good works."

What's He teaching us there? Our former selves in verse 3, we would pass our days in malice. There was a passing of the day, hating being hated. Slandering. But in Christ, there's a careful attention and detail given to each day that we live, that we would be intentional to devote ourselves to good works.

This understand this real quick. It's the devotion to do good works, not to be accepted by God. It's because we've been accepted by God if we've repented and trusted in Jesus that then good works are produced. It's a salvation that works. It's not a salvation by works. So we're devoted to good works, we're zealous for good works. Not that He would love us more. [inaudible 00:35:26] we could do to cause Him to love us less or more. He's done that fully in Christ, and so there's liberation now that comes that we should be the people of God, and the people who are leading in good works of acts of kindness and service because of the kindness that's been shown to us in Christ.

Unfortunately, this isn't the case for one particular professor from Boston College who's retiring this year. His name's Allen Wolf, a self-described agnostic, working in the religion and philosophy department, which is the case now for many of our college, unfortunately, that those who don't even believe in these things are writing about these things, and so he writes a book called, "The Transformation of American Religion, How We Actually Live Our Faith." As he traveled and studied many churches and those who professed Christ as Savior. This is what he says. He says, "Witnessing is another lifestyle option. I found that while evangelicals claim to believe in absolute truth and in an authoritative Bible which governs all of life, they do not live like they say they believe. They say they believe the Bible is the word of God, but somehow strangely, the Bible always says what satisfies their own personal, psychological and emotional needs. He's God [inaudible 00:36:50], not the imposing deity before whom Israel trembled at the foot of Mount Sinai. As far as God's people, well, they're really just like everyone else, no more holy or righteous than the rest of us. Put them in the crucible of character, and they'll fold like a cheap suit."

See, for so many, it's like around Providence, we used to have these huge plants, and from a distance, they look real, and yet when you get close to them and you start to touch them, they're all artificial, artificial plants. They were all over the place. And the thing about artificial plants that speak volumes for those who maybe live one way and say another thing, these artificial plants, they can never produce fruit. They can never multiply and reproduce and make another plant the way God desires for us to make other disciples, that make disciples, that make disciples.

No, as a believer, listen, our life is going to look strange. It's going to look unique, and so don't buy into the lie of we've got to look like the culture to reach the culture. No, we live in the culture. We love the culture, but being distinct.

A.W. Tozer says it this way in his book, *The Root of Righteousness*. He says, "A real Christian is an odd number. He feels supreme love for one whom he's never seen. He talks regularly every day to someone he cannot see. He expects to go to heaven on the virtue of another. He empties himself in order to be full. He admits he is wrong so he can be declared right. He goes down in order to get up. Is strongest when he's weakest, richest when he's poorest, happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passes knowledge. This is who we are in Christ to be living in our world, our neighborhoods, loving our neighbors, caring for them.

We are His workmanship. Ephesians 2 says, “We are His workmanship, created in Christ for good works. It’s not that we do good works and then we have this new creation. No, it’s a new heart that produces these things which God prepared.”

Matthew 5 says it like this: “Let your light shine before others so that they may” ... I love the way the Word says this ... “So that they may see your good deeds, see your good works. Not hear your words, but see your good works, and give Glory to the Father who is in heaven.” I think what happens is that they see how you live. They come and ask why you live this way. This is what 1 Peter says in 3:15. It says “Always be ready to give an account of the hope that’s in you when they ask.”

And so, a life of authenticity bridges, I think, a gap between the message of the Bible and the gospel getting to them. It’s lining up. We’re trying to strive in such a way that, even if the world doesn’t listen, they’re always watching.

And so let’s repent. Let’s have a life of repentance of our sin, and then let’s rely on the gospel. Listen. Let’s rely on the gospel to authenticate our life in hopes to validate what we say about the gospel. Let’s rely on the gospel to authenticate our life. So the resource we need is the gospel itself with this grace and mercy that moves us to a place of being authentic in our love and genuine transparent in hopes it would validate what we would say about God.

One of the fitting ways to think about how we would be a people who would repent and rely is to remember, and today we have that joy to do that with the Lord’s supper, so I’m going to ask our team of guys that would head on to the back that will be serving us in just a moment, and as we prepare our hearts for this, maybe there’s something in your heart that has prevented you, maybe, from living in such a way that is authentic and genuine. That maybe what you’re saying and how you’re living’s not matching up, and you just need to confess that God today. Do that with God during this time.

Mark’s going to come and play and sing. We’re going to be able to just think on these things, and think about these elements that He has established for us, both the bread and cup that remind us of all that He’s accomplished in His death, burial and resurrection, and so there’s a exhortation to reflect. There’s an exhortation to remember during this time. It’s [inaudible 00:41:58] there’s a warning that if you’re not a believe to let those past. Let them speak to you as they past. Let these elements, they won’t speak audible words but they’ll speak volumes in tangible presence that will say that Christ died for you. He loves you.

But if you aren't bearing witness to that, then let that pass, and then maybe if you have questions about that, we'd love to talk to you about how to know Jesus today, okay?

So let me pray and give thanks before our guys come and serve. Father, as we come to the table, and we are overwhelmed what the table represents and what it stands for, we are grateful, grateful people today for the bread and the cup. For the bread symbolizing your life, your body that was broken for us, and your blood that was spilled for us, poured out for us. You tell us in your word that there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood, and thank you that Hebrews reminds us that there's no need for the shedding of blood with bulls and goats anymore and lambs because the perfect, spotless lamb of God has come, and so behold, He's the one who takes our sin away, and so work in our hearts to awaken affections during this time to be able to celebrate the best meal of the month that we eat together. And we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



© 2017 Providence Baptist Church (Raleigh, NC)
Sermon transcripts may be used for preaching and teaching purposes, but may not be published or sold. While generally accurate, parts of this transcript may contain errors. Providence reserves the right to correct and/or remove a transcript at any time.