**01 What is God's Plan for You & HIs Church; Overview**  Good morning church I'm glad to see everyone here it's good to be back in the flow of preaching I know Christmas is great but it's also busy busy busy busy so I'm excited to just kind of settle into a pattern I very much like routine so maybe you're with me on that let me

let me pray and we'll begin Lord thank you so much for this time to be with your church and with your people God I just want to ask that you would grab our hearts and our minds right now and bring them to your word that you would meet us there that you'd speak to us and challenge us father I just I know that's what you want this is we saying we know we were made for more than serving self-serving sin or even simply enjoying the Salvation we've been given We Were Made for More and you have a plan for your church that we are to be a part of so help us see today the big picture of what you are doing in the world really with or without us but that if we answer that call in obedience what a joyful what a joyful partnership we get to enjoy with you lord it's in Christ's name we pray amen

so every year I like to do a what I call **state of the church address** to start the year. last year or last week we had communion I gave Dylan the opportunity to preach, which I was really excited to do, and just giving him opportunity to grow and begin that process of learning how to sermon prep deliver and do that ministry as he feels he's been called to it

Today we're going to start what I like doing the **state of the church address** and I say start because as unlike previous years where it's a one sermon and then done we move on this year this series will encompass probably 12 weeks at least addressing the state of the church and when I say state of the church I'm not speaking necessarily about out there I'm speaking this church where we are at. so why am I doing this well usually every year beginning in October I try to discern where we are at where am I at you know what are the issues that I'm having to confront in my own life or being confronted in in my own life and usually I find that the issues I'm having to address you're addressing as well and you're being confronted with as I meet you and I see a pattern going on not just individuals but churchwide and I recognize those similarities and that gives me a lot of Clues and discernment as to hey where are people at what are we struggling with

how do I need to Pastor through this how do I Pastor people through this and I I've come to the conviction that I believe 2025 is going to be a year of **testing and growth for Waypoint** and when I say growth I don't want you to think numbers certainly might be numbers but that is not at all what I'm thinking there is a type of numerical growth that's been exciting at Waypoint the last several years but I think 2025 the Lord is going to put rubber to the road that kind of growth not about numbers but are we going to be who God calls us to be that's what I think God is going to do and this makes sense given what we are told over and over and over in God's word what his purpose is for any church let alone Waypoint but any church what is God's purpose what is he want because after all this is his body his program his prerogative he saved us and he called us into this relationship and he calls us as we read in Titus to start to be zealous for good works what are those what is his purpose well I want to start in Ephesians chapter 4 this is not a main point I'm still in my introduction in fact a joke for first service this is the longest introduction I've ever had in a sermon but I want to start in **Ephesians 4** this is really the heart of where I'm at as a church what I want for us in

**Ephesians chapter 4 beginning in** **verse 11** we're going to read through verse 16 Paul writes he gave the apostles the prophets the evangelists the Shepherds and teachers to equip the SA sa for the work of Ministry for building up the body of Christ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God to mature manhood to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ so that we may no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of Doctrine by human cunning by craftiness and deceitful schemes rather speaking the truth in love we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head into Christ from whom the whole body joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped when each part is working properly makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love

this June **Waypoint** will celebrate **eight years** old and it's been crazy to me that that eight years went so fast it seems like a couple for me but it's a milestone and one of the ways that I've sought to try and understand where are we at as a church what is our growing up look like you know and what can I compare it to I've come to this comparison I think what's happening at Waypoint right now in 2025 will be this year is that we're kind of moving from elementary school to Middle school I don't know about you but Middle School was the absolute worst time of my life it was so awkward everything was awkward everything was hard

I'm going to embarrass myself I did it to the first service so I'm going to do this service I told my kids about this I remember in middle school I had a home at class which you probably did to and I had the opportunity to make my favorite used fabric for my favorite baseball team s San Francisco Giants and make a pair of boxers I love them in fact I loved them so much I wore them to school as shorts and I didn't realize or understand why is everybody laughing at me why is everybody making fun of me that's how awkward Middle School was for me I hated Middle School you had to start moving from being a kid to trying being adult but you could really be neither that's why it was so hard you're learning to put rubber to the road but you don't know how your conversations with people you're trying to be big but you're still a little kid you really want to play with your GiJo's but you know that's lame and all this stuff Middle School was hard it was growing pains well

I think Waypoint is entering That season where not to say that members of Waypoint aren't mature Christians they're not any of that no but as a church as a whole we we've existed now for 8 years almost which is good we've weathered storms we've grown but we're not yet a 50-year-old church that's gone through a lot together and really dug Deep Roots we're still pretty young that's what I mean by this comparison but with that there are growing pains and I fully believe that these growing pains this year are going to be the type where the Lord is going to put us to the test and say are you going to do what you now know it's time to start being mature everywhere

Paul knew what he wanted for the church is what we just read in Ephesians he wanted them to get established to start teaching truth to start loving each other to get leadership structure established why for the purpose of coming into mature manhood mature adulthood growing up in every way and having every part of the body working prop properly to make it happen that's Paul's goal every church he planted this is what he wanted so what we're going to do for the next several weeks as we enter into this season I believe is just really confront that where are we at as a church how do we know where we're at today

we're going to start by looking at the big picture I don't know about you I was telling my kids they're learning basketball they never played basketball before and I was terrible at basketball so I can't help them but I do know that in athletics in general if they're calling you to do a certain play plan whatever you don't know why you might know the pieces of that play but the big picture eludes you It's very difficult to know why you're even doing what you're doing but if you see the big picture now you understand oh this is why that and this and that and this and comes together and then you can execute

I want to start today with a big picture of what is God doing what is his master plan **how does He intend to use Waypoint** and **how does He intend to use you at Waypoint** in that big plan then what's going to follow for the next several weeks is considering the specifics

I'm very grateful over winter break I got to meet with a man who his daughter and son-in-law go here he's a missionary and he's been on the mission field for 20 plus years now he serves in a role where he's kind of over global strategy and I met with him over Christmas break and had coffee and he just started talking about **how they gauge the health of any church** movement Church Plant in countries they're in how do they know and he pointed out a verse to me in Romans I swear I've never read it in my life it's like holy cow **Romans 15** **Paul makes this statement** where he says hey I'm telling the Romans I'm going to head on to Spain because there's no room for ministry here left for me and he just stopped and pointed that out and he said think about that statement Paul had evangelized and discipled the churches in that entire region to the point where there was nothing left for him to do and it was time for him to move on and I was like wow that's a big work that's the goal of every church right to get to the point where hey we have discipled each other we've established the church we've matured we've evangelized to the place there's nothing left for us to do let's go to the next region that is cool now I'm not saying I'm trying to work myself out of a job but I'm kind of hoping to work myself out of a job right not really so what can we expect

I want to lay these expectations out the next several weeks because this is important one as we get into this this series is going to be intentionally foundational in its content and I want to intentionally go back to these foundations so that we can test ours if we're going to grow and our foundations are faulty Jesus says we're foolish right if our foundations are not solid and we build on that structure with faulty foundations it's like a man building his house on the sand so it's smart for us to look at our foundations if we want to grow both spiritually and numerically we have to test foundations

so **I'm going back to foundations intentionally** and you're probably going to say during this series that man Pastor Seth he didn't say anything I don't already know he didn't say anything new to me I didn't learn anything new today and I'm going to be honest with you I hope you say that to me that's my goal I want us to know these foundations so much that you say yeah I see that I know that of course

that leads to **the second point** is that this series because it's going to be foundational in content it will be heavy in application you see biblically there's always warnings of knowing and doing you can know the scripture so well but are you doing it we can deceive ourselves

**James chapter 1** says if all we do is hear and know but don't practice James chapter 1:22 but be doers of the word and not hearers only deceiving yourselves and he goes on to say that it's the doer who acts that will be blessed in his doing if we want the Lord to be with Waypoint to be with us as an individual member of Waypoint we have to ask ourselves this question not only do I know this truth am I doing this truth that's really what I want to press and I'm going to press it for me as well as you so expect toes to be stepped on expect loving confrontation that's how we grow right the Lord prunes us and that hurts but it has to be done if we want to bear more fruit so that's the intent I believe the Lord wants that for us

go to **Matthew Chapter 5** real quick I was reading this passage over Christmas break as I Was preparing for the Christmas Eve service and just kind of reading through the Christmas story Matthew 1-4 and I got to chapter 5 **The Sermon on the Mount** I just kind of kept reading one day and this passage though unrelated to Christmas I knew was heavily related to what I was planning for this this is the application section that I'm kind of after or content that I'm after here's how Jesus put it in **Matthew 5:43** you've heard that it was said You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy I say to you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you so that you may be sons of your father who's in heaven for he makes his son rise on the evil and on the good he sends rain on the just and on the unjust now here's the application for if you love those who love you what reward do you have do not even the tax collectors do the same and if you greet only your brothers what more are you doing than others do not even the Gentiles do the same you therefore must be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect you see Jesus intentionally lays down the bar he says look yes it's good to love your neighbor it's also good to love your enemy and if you can't do that you're really no different than anyone else how are you separated from the world in any way how do you reflect me in any way because I send the rain on the just and the unjust you must be perfect because that's how your father is so heavy in application

**third** as I said we're going to be looking today at the big picture and then the in the weeks to follow looking at all the particulars and these particulars is really what this missionary helped me see there's like light bulbs coming on that's exactly what I've been searching for where we're at and he said this this is what these statements we're going to look at here in a second this is what they use to gauge the health of any church they're working with in any region because these are just statements found in scripture of things that Christians should be doing these are the foundational practices of any Christian in any church and if they're not established the church is going to suffer to some degree and so he says these really are great tests to gauge your health individually and our health corporately are we doing this if we're not, we're really not as healthy as we think even if we have tons of people coming that doesn't mean we're healthy

so this is the test the particulars we're going to look at **repent and believe** Bo's going to preach that next weekend as I'll be at the men's Retreat is evangelism now I know I'm stepping on toes from the gate do you evangelize have you ever shared the gospel with anyone that is a huge it's one of two Ministries the church has been entrusted with and I'm going to step on toes no excuses this is not the job of the pastor only not the job of an evangelist only this is you we're going to see it today how do you share now I know you're probably scared but we'll get into that later okay but a healthy Church shares the gospel with people it shares the gospel and a healthy Church says that's my responsibility and I want to do that I want to see so and so in my life come to Faith and I'm going to do something about it that's a healthy response obedience in practicing baptism in the Lord's Supper the two ordinances as we looked at last week given to the church to obey is the church obeying those are we are we encouraging new Believers people coming to faith in Christ to follow in obedience in baptism do you see that happening are we observing the Lord's Supper prayer praying are you a Praying person do you pray privately individually do you pray corporately together those are practices of a healthy Christian and a healthy Church Go Make Disciples a Great Commission Matthew 28 are you engaged in that process somehow some way whether it's through work or outside of work or somehow with your children are you making disciples that's the other Ministry loving each other that's a hard one in fact that's one of those weeks where I might expand that into two weeks type thing we all we all talk about loving each other right that is one of the most difficult things that's really where the rubber meets the road for us as Christians because loving each other necessarily entails you're going to have to die to yourself if you want to do it in a Biblical way this is hard worshiping through perseverance or worshiping with perseverance giving and I don't just mean financially Bible expands the idea of giving Beyond money Romans 12:1 present your body as a Living Sacrifice you give you so we're going to talk about giving Gathering Together 20:00 Fellowship Hebrews says don't forsake the Gathering Together as is the habit of some but all the more do it all the more as you see the day of the Lord drawing close right Gathering Together are you involved in some kind of fellowship and then the goal long-term discipleship I love second Timothy you guys know that I say that it's probably my favorite book but second Timothy 2:2 Paul's writing basically from his death ped he's about to be beheaded and he tells Timothy the things that you've heard from me entrust to Faithful Men Who will be able to entrust it to others also there's four generations there long-term discipleship Paul to Timothy to Faithful Men to others also that's incredible that's generational discipleship that's what we want that's when we can get to the point Romans 15 hey there's no more work for me to do here let's move on to other unreached regions so that's what you can expect and as I said be foundational in its content maybe you'll know this I hope you do I hope you can tell me you didn't teach me a single thing I didn't already know what I'm going to focus on okay good are you doing it are you doing it that is the goal am I doing it let's get into today's lesson I told you that's the longest int introduction I've ever had in a sermon the big picture of God's plan I want to zoom back out as a church and refocus us on okay why does Waypoint exist what is God's purpose what is any church including Waypoint for what is our mission what's our goal we don't decide that that's been decided we simply say Okay Mission sets been given let's obey it's been determined by the Lord we need to start at the beginning and understand what the purpose of God for people in general originally was so let's go all the way back to Genesis I know you guys know this stuff like I said but we are laying foundations we're covering it again and I love this what was God's purpose for people in general well it was to be his image Bears over creation Genesis chapter 1, 26 6- 28 and God said let us make man in our image after our likeness and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea over the birds of the heavens over the livestock and over all the Earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth so God created man in his own image in the image of God he created him male and female he created them and God blessed them and God said to them be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth God's image is not a material image God's image is righteousness Justice goodness Mercy love it is his essential nature and when God made man image Bears of that that's what he means not only are we unique in creation because we're material and spiritual we're unique in creation because we bear his immaterial image and his point is we are to bring that image as we live to be representative to the rest of creation of who their creator is with each other and with everything else man walked with the Lord talked with the Lord fellowship with the Lord because he resembled the Lord no other creature did hat in this way that was God's original purpose as we know the fall happened and screwed it all up sin entered the world separated man from God and marred the image of God in man now instead of being just we're unjust now instead of being righteous we're unrighteous now instead of being loving we're unloving rather than being selfless we're selfish and so on and so forth and the consequences of that are disastrous as we know Ecclesiastes 7:29 Solomon says this this alone I found that God made man upright but they've sought out many schemes it's a simple summary of The Fall is it not man we search out so many sinful schemes we literally scheme in our hearts and our minds how to accomplish sin we do it all the time all of us do it so God being loving and merciful and just though he didn't have to save us chose to save us but I want us to see the primary purpose of God's New Covenant in Christ Ezekiel if you want to turn to Ezekiel chapter 36 with me this this passage is one of those passages for me that grounds me as a pastor because the American Church in in many ways tends to or becomes a self-centered church when the gospel and salvation becomes all about me there's something wrong I am certainly a beneficiary of the Gospel I am saved I am forgiven and the what that means for me is eternal but I'm not the focus of the gospel and neither are you Ezekiel 36 such a great passage this is God telling Israel he's going to make a new covenant with them so foreshadowing the New Testament covenant made in the blood of Christ but he also tells us why he's doing this and that's what I want to focus on Ezekiel 36:22 therefore say to the house of Israel thus says the Lord God it is not for your sake o House of Israel that I'm about to act but for the sake of my Holy Name which you have profaned among the Nations to which you came and I will vindicate the Holiness of my great name which has been profaned among the Nations and which you have profaned among them and the Nations will know that I am the Lord declares the Lord God when through you I vindicate my Holiness before their eyes if you want to know why did God make a New Covenant why the gospel there's your answer when man fell we marred the holy name of God and in God saving us what he's doing is restoring His holy name that we messed up we benefit from his grace and salvation without out but God's purpose is to restore man back to being holy image Bears of him that's it that's the plan all the other stuff Falls outside of those lines because it really in the ultimate scheme of things doesn't matter it doesn't matter so how has God accomplishing that goal how is he restoring His holy name well that brings us to the New Testament in the gospel he said it in Ezekiel when through you I will vindicate the Holiness of my great name that's the gospel he came to man sinful man seeking to save the Lost God is restoring what was lost and in restoring what is lost he's restoring the Holiness of his name as image bears we know these verses but I want to look at them in light of this Luke 19:10 for the son of man came to seek and to save the lost now I want to point out here at this point this is dealing with individuals right Jesus comes to us as individuals and he calls us as individuals to receive salvation from him to be reconciled to him to confess and receive forgiveness from him that's what he came seeking and he's looking for that response John 3:16-17 for God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life for God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him and then I put Luke 15 the whole chapter the whole chapter go read it it's three different Parables all teaching the same point there's the parable of the lost sheep Jesus leaving the 99 to go find the one in celebrating when he's the woman who loses her coin and finds the coin and has a party and then finally The Prodigal Son all teaching the same point what is God doing first he's seeking to save the lost because we had fallen from him well once he saves people does it stop there is God simply worried about saving you yeah he's worried about that but that's not all he's worried about God has more for you than simply being 30:02 saved now the greater work of Salvation is now he's conforming you back to the image of his son you see Adam when he fell that image of God was not completely lost but distorted badly what was Jesus as a man he was who Adam was supposed to be Jesus. Jesus is obviously unique from Adam because he was also God but as a man Jesus was who Adam was supposed to be it's who you and I were supposed to be so when God Saves an individual now he begins the work of bringing the image of Christ back into man now that man's been restored Colossians 3:10 Paul says we are to put off the old man and put on the new man which is being renewed in the knowledge after after the image of its creator who who are you being renewed in the image after your Creator and your savior Jesus Christ 1 Peter 1:15 and 16 but as he who called you is Holy you also be holy in all your conduct since it is written you shall be holy for I holy again this is for the person who's been saved what does God now wanting to do in you make you holy why because that's who he is why that's what was lost in the garden Ezekiel 36 he's restoring the Holiness of his name through you that's the gospel 1 Thessalonians 4:3 this is the will of God your sanctification in October last year I had asked the elders to to kind of give me some ideas as I was trying to prep for this season and I wanted to hear from them hey you guys have a lot of contact with people and your small groups meetings whatever what are you hearing what are you say what questions do you get asked and so they gave me a bunch of ideas that they encounter and one of them is always what is the will of God how do I know and so I was going to originally I was planning on teaching that there's the general will of God and the specific will of God specific is specific to you but the general will of God is the same for every single person this is one of them do you want to know what God's will is for you it's to be Sanctified what does that mean it's to be made holy why because he's holy as Peter said and that's God's plan that's God's purpose in the gospel restoring the Holiness of his name through us so he saves us then he conforms us to Christ that's what he does with the individual but it doesn't stop there so I'm again I want us to see the big picture if all you think as a Christian is that God is just concerned about saving you and then sanctifying you you're still missing the big picture he doesn't just save you and he doesn't just sanctify you he also joins you to what he calls the church which is his body so there's an individual element to Salvation and his plan there's also a Corporal element to his plan and you cannot separate it out you cannot separate it out the church is to be Christ's body doing the kingdom work it's the purpose of the church in fulfilling his plan I love how the book of Acts opens up Luke wrote the book of Acts he also wrote the Gospel bearing his name and in the gospel he records what Jesus finished and also what he only began Jesus finished the work of Salvation because it was his alone to do he alone redeemed us on the cross he alone was raised from the dead accomplishing our justification he finished the work of Salvation he only began however other Ministries that we are to inherit acts 1 verse 1 and 2 this is how he opens it up in the first book of theophus I've dealt with all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day when he was taken up after he'd given commands to the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he chosen did you catch that Jesus only began certain Ministries and he commanded the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them why so that they can re receive power to keep that work going he has entrusted to the church the mission he began I love thinking about that because you and I inherit literally Ministry and teaching that is a living chain directly back to Christ what I'm doing here in teaching the Bible is directly traceable to what Jesus began that's exciting to me it's not like this is a new work it was started by Christ but it was not finished by him he entrusted it to the church was taken to heaven and said go I began it you do it that is the bigger picture that's why he has his body so yes God is concerned about your individual salvation yes God is concerned about you individually being conformed to the image of his son but he joins you to his body because the greater work involves that I wrote down several things that the church is to be about one 1 Peter 2:9 tells us that we are to be proclaiming his excellencies let me read this to you Peter writes you are a chosen race a royal priesthood a holy nation so again this is plurality is not speaking to the individual Christian this is the church you are a holy nation a people for his own possession why so that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of Darkness Into His Marvelous Light what is the church corporate supposed to be about we to be a people peculiar for him who Proclaim his excellencies to a dark world it's the mission of the church it's one of the missions of the church collectively we all with one voice have the same testimony I was lost and I been found I've been forgiven from so much and we collectively Proclaim his excellencies second the church is equipped by God to build itself up as well as to bring in the lost the holy spirit's been given to the church to indwell in us go to First Corinthians we'll look at this together because I I love this you see in Corinthians 12 this this idea of hey there's an individuality as well as a duality in in the church yes we are individuals and yes we're unique as individuals and we're gifted differently as individuals but we are called as one body under one Lord with one purpose this is the true statement of Urus Unum right in the one many or in the many one 1 Corinthians 124 through 7 now there are varieties of gifts but the Same Spirit there are varieties of service but the same lord and there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone verse 7 to each individual is given the manifestation of the spirit why for the common good he goes on to spell out what those gifts are in their individuality and how they build up the common good whether it's building up the church corporate or reaching the loss collectively you are equipped by the holy spirit with gifts but those gifts are not simply to serve you or to be boasting in or any it's to serve the common good somehow your gifting is to be used to build up the body of Christ or to reach the lost or both so there's the bigger picture he calls you into this body and this is why Paul said what he said in Ephesians 4 hey when every part of the body is working as it should then it builds itself up in love I believe that the health of any church will only be as good as the participation of its members now I know that some members can only give so much but some don't give anything right if 20% give and again when I say give I'm not talking just about giving money participation right gifting for instance Romans 12:1 give your bodies as a Living Sacrifice right are you giving yourself as the body gives itself to this work to that degree will the body be healthy Ephesians 4 1 Corinthians 12 so that's one purpose of the church third purpose that I wrote down and this is one that's not usually thought of but is profound to me Ephesians 3 Paul identifies another purpose of the church is to reveal his power and his wisdom to the Heavenly Creatures Peter says that Angels longed to look into what God has done for us why because God didn't do it for them they stand and Marvel at what Jesus has done for people and now through the church God is 40:05 displaying his wisdom and power let's check it out Ephesians 3 beginning in verse 7 of this gospel I was made to minister according to the gift of God's grace which was given me by the working of his power to me though I'm the very least of all the saints this Grace was given to preach to the Gentiles The unsearchable Riches of Christ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things in verse 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the Heavenly places does that blow your mind that through the church God is declaring to these Heavenly rulers and authorities his power and wisdom that had been hidden from ages past so that they stand and Marvel fourth I'll end with this passage go to 2 Corinthians 5 purpose of the church to be ambassadors for Christ pleading with the world I love this passage because it highlights what we've been talking about the the church is a body Collective made up of individuals but can't survive without everyone we need each other right a body can function without a hand but not as it was intended to a body can function without two hands but not very well so on and so forth it is composed of individuals it starts by God calling and saving individuals but he then incorporates them into the plurality of the church let's check this out second Corinthians 5 beginning verse 16 from now on therefore we regard no one according to the flesh even even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh we regard him thus no longer therefore here's the individual if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation the old has passed away behold the new has come that's exactly what we said the purpose of the Gospel is for the individual what's God doing he's seeking and saving you and recreating His Image you're the new creation right why because that's what was lost so there's his plan for the individual but then Paul shifts without taking a breath into the Corporal the body and the work of the body so if anyone's in Christ he's a new creature the old has passed away behold the new has come all this is from God who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation who do he give the ministry of reconciliation to anyone who's a new creature who's that anyone who's been born again you have been entrusted a Ministry of reconciliation where the that's with your children your family your co-workers or maybe you'll be a Street Preacher or maybe whatever you have this ministry that's been in trusted to you it's the church's entrustment he says that is in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us again the US is the church the message of reconciliation therefore we are ambassadors for Christ God making his appeal through us we implore you on behalf of Christ be reconciled to God you we talk about God saving people this makes it very clear how does he do that he uses you as his mouth he uses you as his hands to do it and his feet he makes his appear to a lost world through us the church you cannot separate knowing this from doing this if God if we refuse to be used in this way we'll become like one of the churches in Revelation where we see we receive warnings hey you're doing this good you're doing this good but I have this against you deal with it or I'm removing your lampstand and that happens all the time it doesn't take much to drive around any city in America and see dead churches everywhere their lampstands been removed why because they're not they're not surrendering to the Lord so highly foundational in content probably nothing new in this material but I intend this to be lovingly confrontational both for myself and to you this is about application where are we stack backing up how are we as a church health wise that's the big picture this is what God's about right everything else is extra seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness everything else will be added to you so if we see the big picture now we we are in a position to understand all these particulars we're going to take the next several weeks to look at I want to end with some questions and again these are pointed I thought through these what do I really want to focus on and and bring us into first question do you see the big picture presented in scripture now tongue and cheek I hope so because I just spent a whole hour preaching it but I want us to get this right God is not simply saving people to save people and so often the American Church stops there yes he's saving people and there is so much more we just sang that right we've been made for so much more where do you fit in in that do you see that point and this next question is really the proper follow up maybe you've surrendered your life to the Lord in Salvation have you surrendered your life to the Lord in discipleship and there's two things I want to say this I gave the reference there John 21:19 it's the story of Peter. Peter is such a awesome study in this because I think he reflects so many of us for a long time I I struggled with understanding Peter when he denies the Lord right when Jesus taken into the temple he's being accused being beaten falsely accused all these things and and the scripture says they could see each other right because when Peter denied him for the third time Jesus looked at Peter Peter saw him look and began wailing so they could see each other but why did Peter deny the Lord it wasn't as I used to think and I'd heard preach because he was scared of a little girl who challenged him hey you're one of his followers no I'm not start swearing at her it's how we used to take it Jesus got or Peter got scared of a little girl it hit me one Sunday Peter Peter had just moments earlier been in the garden with Jesus when the Betrayal happened took out his sword and started swinging against a Roman cohort he was no coward he was foolish but no coward he wasn't scared of a girl what was going on why did he deny Christ he was certainly a Believer it's because he wasn't willing to go where Jesus went he wasn't willing to die in that way and that's reflected in John 21 go read it it's where after the resurrection Jesus meets him on the shore gathers him around and he he zeros in on Peter Peter done him three times Jesus says three times do you love me third time Peter said Lord you know that I love you he was grieved by that question you know I love you I am a I am a follower I should say I am a believer but pet Jesus tells Peter you know when you're older Peter they're going to drag you away they're going to take you to somewhere you don't want to go and kill you in a way you don't want to die you know what John ends with in verse 19 follow me in my own life life there were two big yeses when it came to my walk with the Lord and a whole bunch of little ones the first yes was yes to Salvation right I know I was lost and I need to be saved and I said yes to that and I received him but the second yes happened about a year and a half later and it was very distinct and I want to share it with you I was in Israel with my home church at the time Calvary Chapel in Albuquerque and we were standing in Jerusalem on a Saturday on the Sabbath and it was night time and we're standing at the Wailing Wall you've seen the Wailing Wall pictures and what the Orthodox Jews do on the Sabbath is they go there to pray and they write their prayers on little pieces of paper roll them up and put them in the cracks you can walk up to the wall and there's thousands of little pieces of paper shoved in these cracks prayers to God to return and so I'm standing there watching this happen this or Orthodox Jew doing that praying and weeping and C literally audibly crying out to God and he turns around and locks eyes with me it's like he it's like he knew I was looking at him and wanted to say something to me he just turns around and looks at me and his cheeks were flush wet and red from crying and right then the Lord spoke to my heart he said you see that man and in my heart I answered yeah he said he's showing more Zeal for me than you are and he doesn't know me and I started crying because I knew for the year and a half previous I'd been resisting the Lord's call to follow him 50:02 I still wanted to be a ski instructor I still wanted to do this and that I still wanted to do all my plans I had been saved but I had not yet surrendered to follow and that was my second big guess and I very simply prayed okay Lord I'll do what you want and I surrendered to him got back home called a Ministry happened that next year became a youth Pastor 20 years later here I still am never in my wildest dreams would I thought I'd be in this role but that's where it begin so maybe you've surrendered your life to the Lord in Salvation but have you surrendered to him in discipleship third what are some areas in your life that you know you're not walking with the Lord in or being obedient in or have not developed spiritual discipline in and I want you to be honest okay okay this is a season I believe where we can be honest I mean if anything the church needs to be the place where we can be honest about I really struggle with this in my flesh this is who I am if the church can't be the place where we can come and do that we're just we're just playing games I was telling a few people and told the first service this you know I've been trying to walk and get out walking and just balance my life a little bit better so at night I go walk or wherever and I've been listening to podcasts and I like listening to stories of Navy Seals and you know operators who've just been doing some pretty heroic things and difficult things and I was listening to the story of one man who was a Seal Team Six operator and just as bad as you could be you know as good as you could be and incredible life story difficult life story and he gets to the end 4-Hour podcast and he he says something this guy wasn't a Christian but he says something that was very biblical he said you know in all my time even after the SEAL Teams and everything he says I I had to learn the greatest enemy is me greatest I I couldn't conquer myself I could conquer the discipline of all these things I've done overcome so many things I could not overcome me and I I stopped my podcast I just thought wow that's absolutely true we are greatest enemies that's why we need the gospel that's why we need Christ so if we can't be honest church about what I'm and and this guy goes on to deride like hey every one of these other operators are talking are struggling with this but we won't talk about it that's what we need to do and and I just thought that's what the church needs to do too we put up a wall and and fake it like Hey we're not struggling and hey we are we got problems so if we can't be that as a church we're just wasting our time so are you willing to confess those to the Lord and start there I want you to identify that and seek for change right that's the challenge that's the last question start praying now for the Lord to do a deeper work in you to take you further and being a disciple than you currently are to reveal things that need to be confronted and to give Grace to confront those deep issues of your life that's the challenge we're going to look at it for the next 11 and 12 weeks and my hope is for change to happen good change in our lives as disciples for growth not numerically but spiritually I'm excited for this church I really am I've been having to deal with issues in my own life and confront things that are difficult because they're shortcomings in me I know it's going on in you but I want to be a church that's just honest and confront it together okay so let's pray Lord thank you for your grace thank you for the foundational message that we can come back to what are you doing and what is your purpose in saving us why are you doing that it's because we were your image Bears Lord and we were to reflect who you were to the rest of creation and we fail miserably at that we don't reflect goodness and righteousness and Justice and love and mercy so often we reflect the opposite and what you're doing is you're restoring us you're saving us as we read in Titus 2 and other passages you're making a people for your own possession you're pulling us out of lawlessness and sin so that we might be holy and righteous we might reflect you to the rest of creation as you originally intended you never change you never will but rather than you changing you change us and you call us out of Darkness into your Marvelous Light you join us to yourself by joining yourself to us and you call us into a body where we are to be Christlike toward one another or to be these things so God I pray for Waypoint over the next 12 weeks that you not even necessarily gently but lovingly and Faithfully confront issues in our lives that we need to to do to be these foundational points praying loving each other discipling people sharing the gospel all the things that healthy Christianity presents to us a healthy Church does help us be those things Lord so that we can build ourselves up in love and that one day we would say as a church hey there's there's nothing left here for us to do let's move on to the next place so God we know it's a profound Milestone Lord but help us see the big picture and implement the pieces to make it happen we pray in Christ's name amen English (auto-generated) All From Waypoint Christian Church Righteousness Presentations Related For you Recently uploaded Watched