

# Torrey 2002 Loving God

By Francis Chan

Speaker 1:

Let's continue our worship and prayer, shall we? So, father, here we are gathered in this wooden box that we ask would be a sanctuary that should make our hearts and our minds warm, fertile soil and our wills responsive to you once again in your Amazing Grace. Thank you, Lord God, for the reminder of the basics. How wonderful and gracious you are, Amazing Grace, that you would you would send your son that oh, my God would die for me. Thank you, Lord Jesus, that we can wear that red coat. And there's always so much more to go around. So we're just excited with what you want to do in this place, and we know that you're sovereign and that you can just cut loose your Holy Spirit. Any time you choose. Choose now father. Do your work and our lives may not be the same because we've gathered here this morning. Bless Francis, in an unusual way as he opens your word in Jesus name, I pray. It all God's people said...

Problem with getting old as you just get all choked up before Francis preaches. I want you to know that Haven and I know that this is a little tacky, but I'm going to do it anyway. They travel the world. It's an amazing thing that they cleared schedule to be here today and they were very gracious to do that. In a moment, we're going to thank them again. But I do want to recall, as you leave this place at the table in your back, that there are so many wonderful things you can take advantage of CDs and tapes and worship tapes. Let's thank heaven and bring Francis on to preach the word.

Francis Chan:

Got to love Ron. Hey, before I start a message, let me just say something real quickly.

If yesterday morning you heard my message and you were convicted about it and just felt like, you know, my relationship with God isn't right and my love relationship with him isn't where it needs to be, and you seriously felt like I've really got to do something about it and you've done nothing yet or you haven't made any plans to do anything yet that would really encourage you not to listen to me today. Just seriously, I would much rather you tune me out today and just in your mind, be thinking, how am I going to figure out some time alone with God?

Because it makes no sense for you to move on from that lesson and say, well, I don't really love God, but let me let me hear the next message, OK? It'd be much better and much more honoring to God if you tune me out for the next half hour and just in your own mind, thought to yourself, how am I going to figure out my schedule so that I can get some time alone with God and really fall in love with him and really just embrace him and run in his lap and just tell him how much I love him, see a days gone by.

And my question is, have you done anything with what you've heard or are you just going to deceive yourself thinking, well, I heard the message that was good enough. That is the greatest commandment on this earth, love the Lord, your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. And so if that isn't right in your life, then don't move on to the next lesson. And don't come with excuses. Well, yeah, you know, I just got busy yesterday, you guys, there's a there's an old Chinese proverb and it goes like this Hungyup my Holgado. Now it goes a...that's actually a dirty joke. So the Asians are laughing. Oh, it's the Chinese proverb says he who is good at

making excuses is probably good at nothing else, OK? He who is good, who is good at making excuses is probably good at nothing else.

You know, people like that, they just have an excuse for everything and they blame it on this.

Blame it on that. And the truth is, is when we get in that pattern of our lives of well, this is why I don't love God, this is why I don't spend time with them. I'm too busy. I'm this I'm that once we get in that mode in our lives, you know, we're not going to be good at anything. But when we can recognize no,.. I... I need to be changing rather than making excuses for my sin, looking at my life. Because the way I understand scripture is that all of us who call ourselves believers should be in a constant state of change, that we're always striving. That's what sanctification is, is that in my life, I'm always in the state of change. So what is the point of defending myself and making excuses for my actions? Instead, I should be saying, yeah, that's right. I need to grow in that area. I need to walk in my relationship with the Lord. So, again, seriously, if you have not figured out how you were going to put God as a priority of your life and loving him as the most important thing in your life, your most important duty every day, and then then forget everything else I'm about to say. And just in your own mind, figure out how am I going to figure that out in my life?

Well, a few years ago, I was I was speaking at a camp called Hume. Many of you guys have been there and yeah, it's been there. And, you know, I gave a message on the on the first night on absolute truth. OK, now now I could have given that message ten years ago and it would have been fine. Everyone said, yeah, that's great, that's great. But nowadays in a world where we don't believe in absolute truth anymore and whatever is true for you is true for you and this whole

rationalism, there was a lot of attacks coming towards me after giving this message of Jesus saying, look, he's the only way to heaven, you know, how do you read that?

How can you read anything else into that? And I gave this message on absolute truth and deciding for yourself who Jesus is. And afterwards, you know, I got some positive comments, but got some pretty negative comments, too. In fact, this one kid, Nick. He was so angry as he was walking out, he looked at me, I want to shake his hand, you know, big mistake. He looks at me, goes, I need to talk to you. And this guy was big, big guy, towered over me. He must have been five, 10. And he said, yeah, you know, big kid. He takes me outside and and he says, I got to talk to you. And so so, you know, everyone's kind of clear now. There's this little, you know, cement patio thing out there. And he and I are talking behind the chapel and he's pacing back and forth because he is so angry. And he just says to me, because I can't believe what you said up there today. I can't believe your arrogance, how you got up there and you acted like, oh, you know, the way to heaven and everyone else is wrong, but you know the way because you're so brilliant. And kind of took me back for a while and I go, whoa, what part of the scriptures do you disagree with? And we start getting to the word I go, can you show me how I took anything out of context? And I started debating with this guy about, you know, the authenticity of scripture, the validity of scripture, historicity of scripture. You know, we just start talking about whether this book is real or not and and how that's got to be the foundation of everything we do. But we started going back and forth and he was arguing this and that. And, you know, the truth is, I'm sitting there thinking, you know, I am absolutely blown you away, you know?

I mean, you have you have no ground to stand on a high school kid trying to argue with me. And I'm just defeating all of his points. But I was noticing this guy was getting more and more angry the more I was proving him wrong. And finally he got so mad. He looked at me and he said, you know, I would love to stick a gun to your head right now and blow your brains out. I thought, wow. No one ever said that to me before, I my wife said it once, but, you know, I said, what do you do? You know, I got this kid so angry and yet I was winning and I was proving myself right and proving my point. And yet he was more and more angry to the point where he literally said those words to me.

I remember at that moment just praying, saying, God, what in the world do I do now? I could maybe just get out of this conversation and move on to someone else, make some excuse why I have to leave, I could keep arguing with this guy and keep proving it and showing him his stupidity. But God just looks like you're speaking to me, reminding me of what scripture taught and says, would you consider loving him? Instead of just beating him, would you consider loving him for a second? And it just hit me, you know what, I'm so into winning this argument, I don't even care about this kid. And I began to pray as I was speaking, I'm a good lord, let me just look at this man and think to myself, what could I say? That would be the most loving thing to say right now. How can I show that I really care about him, because up to that point, I wasn't even thinking about him. And we're putting my hand on his shoulder and I just go, you know what, Nick, I am so sorry. You're totally right. The whole time I'm thinking, what am I to say next, you know, God, just give me words and I go, you know what? I was arrogant on that stage. You know, when I think back, I just want to apologize.

You know, sometimes I get so passionate about something that I go up there and I sound like this guy who just knows at all. And I'm not even thinking about the people listening and not even caring about what's going on in their lives. And I go and then I think about even when I walked out here with you, you know, I'm so into this argument, I didn't even think about you. And I'm just thinking, oh, I know everything. But the truth is, I think you probably have things to teach me. I have things to learn from you. And I just. You know, I just said, I'm not perfect, I screw up, I mess up so many times, and it took you to really open my eyes to see just how messed up I am. I go I mean, all I was trying to do tonight is explain to everyone something that I found when I was in high school.

So I'm going to totally turn my life around this relationship with God. And I know I get so fired up about it that I come across arrogant because I am arrogant, I am proud and I hate that side about me. I just went on and on just, you know, just telling them just how sorry I was and and just apologizing for not loving him. And I just kind of went through my life story, shared it with him. And just mainly I just wanted to listen to him. I just kept when open doors to say, what can I say that's most loving now? How about now? How about now? Every statement I wanted out of my mouth to be loving, to be surrounded, you know, to be focused on Nick. And as I began to talk to him pretty soon, he started to open up. And he started to share, you know, as I started talking about issues in my own family and things I struggle with. He started to share things that he was struggling with and his relationship with a dad. And he started going on and on about all these things he had gone through in life. And my heart started going out for this guy and began to understand why he felt the way that he did. And we went on this conversation probably for at least half an hour. At the end of the conversation, I was getting late and I got to get going and

ring a bell, it's time for bed or whatever, and and I said, you know, Nick, it's been good talking to you. I want to shake his hand. He pushed my hand away. And he hugged me.

Now, let me ask you something. What caused that young man to go from wanting to stick a gun to my head and blow my brains out to pushing my hand away so that he could hug me? That's all it was. The fact that someone took the time to love him. The fact that I pray to God that God, would you just enable me to love him like no one else has ever loved him right now, give me the words to say.

The next night, Nick gave his life to the Lord, came forward and gave his life to Jesus. No telling the story at the council meeting and his counselor just said, Nick hugged you. You'd think I would learn so much from an experience like that, and I share that and I say, well, you know, look at this loving guy up here, but it was just the fact that I'm not a loving person that doesn't naturally come to my mind.

I depend on God to bring those thoughts. I mean, you would think that week I must have learned my lesson. I must have learned that, gosh, I got to just go around and look at people and think, how can I love them? How can I care for them? But it was it was Thursday night of that same week and it was during worship time. And I'm standing in the back of the chapel and worship going on. I'm worshipping. I look up and in the back row, there was a group of three guys, three guys that were messing around during worship. They're are putting their hands in the air as a joke and they're kind of mocking one another. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Well, everyone else is worshipping an inside me. I'm thinking. And I can't I don't know if you've ever experienced that

where you just get so disgusted. So bugged. And so I thought, you know what, I better pray. So I just bowed my head and said, Lord, do something to them, OK, I am being honest with you now. That is the first thought in my head because I'm thinking these guys are mocking you. You are the holy God. You're all powerful God and no one mocks my God. And I seriously, I mean, I'm just confessing. That's what I pray to God.

Would you show them your power right now? Would you show them that you are a God? That is not to be mocked. You're a God that no one is to mock. Show them your power. God, please do something to them. This very second. That was my prayer. And I remember opening my eyes and watching going, OK, what's going to happen? Seriously, that's what went on in my heart, because I have that faith that I believe God can do anything. He wants some looking up. Just wait for one of them to fall down. And and this is what happened.

So I open my eyes and you know what I see? I see a guy coming over these three guys and just, you know, talking to for a little bit and three guys just settling down. Some guy came by and just said, you know what, that's not OK. The guy that settled them down was Nick. The guy from earlier in the week, I'm going say, you know, I mean, God answered my prayers so far beyond what I expected, you know, when you would think that, yeah, that was a better solution, you know? But God in my heart, you know, that's just the way I am. And it's just incredible everything that took place in the life of this kid. Why? Because someone cared to love. And. I just even after all that whole experience and everything that's gone on and so many times when I just know God's calling me love, I'm amazed at how rarely I will look another individual in the

eye and think to myself. How can I love them? But I pass by people every day without even thinking about loving them.

I mean I mean, honestly, how many of you walked in this room this morning and thought to yourself, I don't want to find someone to love. I want to find someone to give something to someone to serve. So usually when I walk in a room, we think of ourselves and say, who do I want to sit by? Who will make me laugh? Who would I enjoy being around rather than thinking? Is there anyone in here that I may be able to minister to or care for? It's sad, but that thought rarely goes through our mind. And oftentimes, you know, we get busy and people become an annoyance and we want to make our encounters with them as short as possible so we can move on. And what's worse, sometimes we look at people to see what we can get from them.

We started thinking, oh, I want to talk to this guy, he's famous or I can get something from him, I want to talk to her for this reason. That reason. And it's about us and we're not viewing people like Jesus, I mean, what was Jesus his life? He just went from city to city caring for people.

Giving of himself, emptying himself, and we call ourselves Christians, we say we want to become like Jesus and yet is that our lives? We're looking for opportunities to love. Paul says in that famous chapter when look at today in first Corinthians 13, remember first Corinthians 13, you know, right after right after Chapter 12, where where the Corinthian church they're all boasting about. Wow, look at this gift I have. Look at what I can do. Look at what I can do. And I don't care about your gifts. Your mother all boasting about how they could speak in tongues in

one of the public watches. I'm not going to be able to, you know, and Paul saying, you know what, you guys are so into bragging about yourself and what you can do.

Have you ever stopped to think about building other people up? And that's why he nestles that Chapter 13 between 12 and 14 with all those spiritual gifts is, you know what, put that all aside, because let me show you something that's more excellent than that. And he says in chapter 13, verse one, he goes, If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I'm only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. See these people that were coming to Paul and saying, wow, look what a great Christian I am and blabbing off in their tongues. Paul says, I don't care. I don't care if you spoke every language on Earth and you spoke every language in heaven. If the words coming out of your mouth are not meant to build other people up, then you're just making a bunch of noise. In fact, he says that if he goes if you spoke in those words, in the tongues of men and angels but have not love, because if I did that and I wasn't loving when I spoke, I wasn't thinking, how can I build this person up?

The words coming out of your mouth were not for the intention of building up the person listening to. He goes, then I've become a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. A resounding gong, it's the idea of two hollow brass pots banging together. He says, If I talk to you and I am not thinking about building you up, it would be like banging to two pots together, brought a couple pots if you like, someone coming up to you and going, he goes, why don't you just do that? I just do that. If you're not going to build me up, you're not going to build up the person you're speaking to and just go up to the top because it just sounds horrible. It's an annoyance.

And not only that, he says I'd be like a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. That word for clanging in the Greek is the word I alalazon. It was onomatopoeia.

You know how when you're when you're a kid, you go, oh, la la la la la. When you don't want to hear what the other person was saying, the Greeks will go on. OK, now it's the idea. He goes, man, if I am talking to you and I'm not thinking about building you up, I may as well just come around you and go, oh la la la la la la. It's on. He says it's pointless. I mean, can you imagine can you imagine if there was a guy or girl and and that's all they did.

Let's say there was a person on Biola, you know, on the campus that that was the pot guy. It just walked around and, you know, whenever he saw you. Well, I'm sure there are those, too. But, you know, he was the guy who walked around and I can't tell a joke at Masters, so I got to tell you. Oh. Oh. So they wouldn't get it. So we go. And now imagine if there was a person on campus that that's all they did, a guy or girl that just walked around and every time they saw you, they just walk up and go, oh, I you know, what would you do? Would you go around looking for that person, go, oh, there she is. I want to go hang out with her. No, every person, every time she come around, you would run, you would go the other way. Why? Because she's just an annoyance, just making noise, you just irritating. And that's what Paul says about the person who constantly talks. Doesn't matter what language he speaks or how gifted he is in his speech. If he's not going to build you up, they become an annoyance. They're just making noise. They're more of an irritation.

Do you know people that every time they speak to you, they speak about themselves? They want to tell you about their stories, about everything, about their lives, and you could be telling me and my mom just thought, oh, but you know what? And it just goes on. They're not even listening. They're not even thinking about building you up. Are those the people you actually just run to and want to be with? No, you avoid them, you oh, great, I'm going to hear another story about his life, her life, a great thing he or she did, they could care less about building me up or what's going on in my life. You see how it becomes an annoyance, it's no different from clanging pots together and screaming, oh, la la.

If we're going to go around just thinking about our needs and telling people about what we've done and how great we are, palsies, pretty soon you are just going to annoy people. It'll be a clanging cymbal, a noisy gong. See, we can all pray, everyone's room can say, oh, I know someone like that. You how many of us would be willing to admit, you know? I kind of am a person like that. And maybe I'm more annoying than I realize. Because when I speak to people, I'm thinking about myself. Rather than seeking to build them up. To use our speech to build people up, he says, if I don't do that, then it doesn't matter how eloquent I am if I speak and it just doesn't even matter. What matters most to God is that when I speak, I use it to edify others, to build them up. I genuinely care for them and I want my speech to lift them up.

He goes on in verse two and he says, If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains but have not love, I am nothing. Paul goes on and he talks about this giftedness, he goes, look, even if I had the gift of prophecy, if God spoke directly to me and I could say those words. Or I had the prophecy to tell future, tell

the future, or I had knowledge and I can solve every mystery. If I had so much faith that I could move mountains, I all this giftedness, he says, even then, even if I have these greater gifts, let's move on past. Even if I had prophecy, even if I had faith in that knowledge at all, these spiritual gifts, he goes, but if I did not have love, he goes, I am nothing. Think about that phrase. I am nothing. Paul says, I absolutely would amount to nothing. Think about what he's saying. They say, if I have all these gifts, I still amount to nothing. Is there a worse insult than that? Being a nobody. Being absolutely worthless, I amount to nothing. You know what's sad is so many people in the Christian world today don't believe that verse. And what do we do, we lift up people who are gifted, don't we, all the Christian celebrities?

Oh, they're so gifted and so we lift them up as these great Christians. And yet, Paul says it doesn't matter how gifted they are, if they don't love people, then they're nothing. They amount to absolutely nothing. And what's amazed me over the years is how many Christian leaders I've spoken to, big names, people you would know where you would go, wow, you know what a godly, godly person and get in there and realize they don't love people. And they're just flat out say, yeah, people bug me, these annoy me, I don't like being around people. I don't care for the people. But their famous. They're well known and we lift them up as these Christian celebrities. Why? Because they speak really well. They sing really well. Let's face it, when I came to buy all of this week, you could care less whether or not I loved you that didn't even enter your mind.

All you were thinking was, is this guy going to entertain me? Is this guy going to give a message that I can hear? And if so, then let's lift him up as a speaker. But you have no idea what's going on in my heart, and the sad thing is most you don't care. Because we don't we don't think about

whether or not a person loves us, it's not the most important thing anymore. It's just about talent, about eloquence, but having a beautiful voice. Being able to perform and Paul says, you know what, I don't care, I don't care how well you know the Scriptures, you have all knowledge and you can expose at this passage better than anyone else in this room. I don't care about any of that. If you don't love the people you're speaking to, if you don't use your gifts in order to build other people up, you're nothing. You're nothing. In fact, you're worse than nothing. You're annoying. You're an annoyance if a guy banging pots around. You're not just nothing, you're worse than nothing, and it goes on, if that's not bad enough, in verse three, he says, If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames but have not love, I gained nothing.

So this one really hit me hard because he says, look, if I give everything I possess to the poor, I mean, imagine if today you met someone who actually gave all of his business, say he was a millionaire and gave everything and lived in a box downtown L.A.. You would think, wow, there is the godless person I've ever met, that person's got some serious eternal rewards. Yet Paul says, look, if I give everything I possess to the poor and I even surrender my body, the flames, but I have not love, I don't get any rewards because I gain nothing from that. I've just lost everything. But if I didn't have the motivation of love, I wasn't thinking I love that person. So therefore I'll give everything I have. So it's not enough just to go through the motions and thinking I'm sacrificing for the Lord, I'm sacrificing for the Lord. Paul says, now you've got to sacrifice for the right reasons. You've got to be motivated by love. Otherwise there's no reward. You gain absolutely nothing from that. No.

We, uh, we had a a summer missions trip with our college students at my church and like 30 of them went to Romania and and this last Monday night had a barbecue with them. And and it was awesome because we're having this barbecue because three of the girls came back and said, we're going back a few weeks later and they're leaving on Tuesday and says, we're going back. We can't just leave those kids go back for at least a year, maybe for life.

And so we're having this barbecue and, you know, I'm just kind of, you know, someone interviews these these gals and the first one, Sarah, they asked Sarah, Sarah, hey, why are you going back to Romania? What is motivating you to go back? And I love what she said because she said that she goes, you know, when we went out there this summer, I literally fell in love with these kids in this orphanage. These kids that are sexually abused, physically abused, they have absolutely no love and they were just dreading going back to this orphanage. And I literally fell in love with them. I developed a relationship, so I started caring for them and I came back to the States and I just thought, I still love them. And they're out there. They're miserable with no one to love them. And so in my heart, I just thought to myself, I can't stay here in America, what am I going to do here? I love them, I need to go back and just love them, so there really wasn't any choice for me. I got to go back. She gets on a plane in a few days. And heads back. Until God says, you know, that's enough or she feels like she's done her job there, but she has no clue. She just knows that she loves these people and that's going to go care for them. Not love that answer, you know, as tears are welling up in her eyes and dripping down in her face. It was just I love them. What else am I going to do? Just sit here and do nothing for them? Because I've met a lot of people that do things out of guilt, I have a fear of God and so refreshing just to hear. I love those kids. I got to go do something and I'm going back. And the sad thing is, is there are

Christians and maybe some of you in this room that would go up to a girl like that and say, gosh, what, you're in college. You've got so much of a future. There's so many better things you can do with your life. You're wasting your life. Don't throw it away. I mean, think about it. You can get an education, you can get a good job, and then you can get married. And then you can buy a house you can't afford and worry about payments and you can overspend and try to pay off your debt. I mean, that's living. Don't throw it away by just going around loving people.

And, you know, what would Jesus do, what was Jesus life about? You have been teaching through the Book of Luke in my church and I mean last this last Sunday, I was teaching the passage in Luke seven, and there was a verse that hit me that I had never really noticed that much before. It was Luke seven is a story of him when he goes and he raises the widow's son and it says, this is said Jesus went to a town called Nain and his disciples in a large crowd went along with him. Listen to this. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her. And he said, don't cry. Then he went up and touched the coffin and those carrying it stood still, he said, young man, I say to you, get up. The dead man, Sat up, began to talk and Jesus gave him back to his mother. It's an amazing, amazing story. But the phrase that hit me was that Jesus was walking in this town, he sees his coffin passing by and he sees a widow, a widow, where her husband was gone. And now she had one son and her son was in that coffin. And she's just weeping. And it says when the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her.

Literally in the Greek, it's a word that means that it's a term that says his bowels were yearning, the idea of just this pain in the pit of your stomach ever hurt so much emotionally that you just feel it in your gut. That's the phrase for compassion there, that's a word that's used that Jesus sees this woman. And just as. I care about her. And he goes and performs this miracle. That God had that type of compassion. When's the last time someone could say that about you? That you saw someone so hurt that your heart just went out to them, you felt for them, you cared for them, you saw someone that was so lonely.

Oh. Let me go do something. No, you can't raise the dead, but there's a lot you can do. I'm not telling you, go out, feed the homeless because they're homeless and because it's right before God, I'm saying maybe the next time you pass by someone who's in need, that maybe you consider loving them and your heart going out and thinking, gosh, is there anything I could do for that person?

You see, we we can come up with excuses today of why we can't minister to people see. This is my soul prayer request for my own life for the last two months. It seems like every morning I've been praying the same thing. God help me be more loving today. Help me not just pass by people, but look them in the eyes and think, how can I build them up? How can I encourage them? Because it doesn't come naturally to me and I've been praying, God change that about me, otherwise I'm worthless and I'm just up here, yapping and making a bunch of noise. I don't really care. Thank God. Would you change me? Seven making excuses in my life also, you know, I don't have time to care for people, I'm a pastor. You know, I had to go from one place to another, I do this, I got to do that. I don't have time to stop and love. Or do I think, well, I'm not really a

good one on one anyways, I'm more of an up front guy at so many excuses of why don't stop and care for people.

And, you know, I look at Jesus life and realize I have no excuse. And remember the parable of the Good Samaritan, the story of the Good Samaritan? You know, the people, the Levite and the priest that just walked by this guy that's bleeding and Jesus says, you know, who was the good one? Who is the good neighbor who loved his neighbor, who's a Samaritan who stopped and bandaged him up, not the priest that walked by not to leave either.

Just walked right by him. And Jesus doesn't say at the end of the parable, but it was OK to leave. I walk by because he was really busy. And the priest, it really wasn't his fault because he was shy. Now he says, no, the good Samaritan was the one, the good neighbor, the one who loved his neighbor, was the good Samaritan who stopped, took the time for that individual. Look, we have no excuses. If we're too busy to love people, then we're too busy and something else has to go. But God has called us people of love. Listen, what I'm sharing, what I shared yesterday when I shared today, it's not rocket science. It's love God and love people. It's the two greatest commands of the Lord, your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

The two greatest commands, and it's amazing, as I've been teaching this. In different places, how people go, wow, I never thought of that. How do we miss it? How do we miss it and think that we're good Christians who we don't love God and we don't love people? How have we gotten

there? I don't get it. What are you going to do with this? We're going to do as you leave here, go right back to the old ways of how you are living.

Or will you join me in just saying God, OK, no more excuses. Father, I need to be more loving. I want to be like Christ. I want to walk around looking for people to love and actually doing something for them. And emulating, imitating the life of Jesus Christ as you leave here today, I encourage you. To pray that you would have eyes that would look for people that are hurting so that you can love them, that be your focus if ears, to hear someone who's hurting and actually pay attention and be listening for hurts. You'd have a mouse that was just concerned about just speaking things that would lift people up. Rather than just making a bunch of noise. Of the Lord, your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself, you can sum up the whole Bible with those two commands, you can sum up all the law and the prophets with those two commands, and yet we still miss it. And we get involved in all these other areas of Christianity.

Don't forget the foundation of who we are. We pray for us. Father, I pray that we do not move on from this guy, that I don't move on, that I don't stop. That we all just keep growing in our love for people. God, it is so sad. The way the church today is just twisted your word. By lifting people up. Without really even caring whether they love people or not or whether they love you.

God, I pray that we would just commit to the basics, the foundation of our faith. God, give us a love for you. A real love for you, where we can truly say that you're everything to us and mean it. And give us a love for the people we pass. Got today, even as we leave this chapel. And we

look to love and build one another up. Rather than thinking about ourselves. Father, you're so good and you gave us such a perfect example, and your son. Who went around and his heart broke for people and prayed that we would do the same. In Jesus name, we pray, amen.

You're dismissed.