

UNHINDERED
April 9, 2017 Morning Service
Acts 28:30-31

Thank you. Thank you. Wonderful. You got your Bible this morning? We are in the last two verses of the book of Acts today so you find your copy of scripture and go there with me. Since the days that Jesus walked the earth, died on the cross, and was raised from the garden tomb, the culture of every generation has sought to thwart the advancement of the gospel. The culture you sit in today stands against the gospel. The culture our parents lived in sought to thwart the advancement of the gospel and when all of us are dead and gone, the generation coming after us will live in a culture that will try to stop the advancement of the gospel.

Paul knew that. Nero sat on the throne and would judge Paul but he couldn't stop the gospel. Paul was in jail but jail couldn't stop the gospel. Paul would later write to young Timothy in his second letter to Timothy, in the second chapter and the ninth verse that the word of God is imprisoned. You can put the preacher in jail but you can't put the gospel in jail. The gospel will go and when the gospel is proclaimed, it will do that that God intends for it to do in any culture on any continent in any climate. I'm telling you, you can't stop the gospel.

When you're on the gospel's side you're on the winning side of the culture. Paul, facing Nero, bound by a chain to a Roman Praetorian Guard has walked through the book of Acts. He's come finally to Rome after three missionary trips and Luke ends Acts with these two verses. The Bible says:

And he [that is Paul] stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, [comma, and what's the last word? Say it out loud with me all together.] unhindered.¹

He was preaching and teaching with all openness. Say that word again. Unhindered. Unhindered. It is the word hinder with an "a" in the Greek in front of it. It's like the word moral. Then we say amoral. It means no morals. This is that same word, hindered. A, it is unhindered. You could not hinder. You could not prevent the gospel.

Now get the picture. The preacher's in jail unhindered. Nero sits not very far from this rented place, getting ready to bring judgment against Paul and yet the gospel is unhindered. Now I want you to listen to me this morning. I don't care what your government or your culture says to you. The gospel is only hindered when we cease to believe God enough to share it but when we believe the gospel, my Lord, you don't have to do it. It's like a lion. Just take the rope off his neck and let him go. Leo the lion

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will take care of himself. He will go unhindered in the culture. That is what we find in Paul's jail.

So this morning I want you to think with me about advancing the gospel. Now this is an unusual outline. I'm going to give you three main points and underneath those points if you can follow me I'm going to give you six principles of gospel advancement that you, every one of you that are saved can be a part of in advancing the gospel. We're going to look at Paul in these two verses and we're going to see his money, his methods, and his message. Those are found right here in this text. Underneath those we're going to find some clear principles of gospel advancement.

So let's just jump in and look together at the word of God this morning. First of all, we start with Paul and his money. Paul and his money. Look at it right there in verse 30. And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters. Now when you go back over to verse 23, they had put him into a lodging. He has evidently moved from lodging to his own rented quarters. Paul is in jail but he has been given favor by the Roman government because he is a Roman citizen and they've allowed him to rent a place for them to incarcerate him. Have you ever heard of such? When you are under house arrest they will sometimes let you live in your own house today and they'll put a bracelet on your ankle and they know if you go outside or come in. They know everywhere you go but you're living in your own house under house arrest. That's much like Paul was here though he didn't have a bracelet on his ankle. He had a bracelet on his arm and every eight hours it was taken off of one of the Praetorian Guards and hooked to another and in that place where Paul lived and paid his own way, the gospel was advanced.

Listen to me. Baptists have always, more than any other evangelical crew, Baptists have always stood in the United States of America for the separation of church and state. Where we've stood for that is that we do not want the government in our business. It does not mean that we do not get in the government's business. There is a wall there to keep Uncle Sam out of the Lord's church but God never intended for the Lord's church not to have a prophetic word to Uncle Sam. You mark this down. If the government pays for the quarters he will control the message but when you pay your own way and rent your own quarters, the preacher is not for sale. The Apostle Paul, how in the world did a man in jail rent his own quarters? You've got to pay for that. That's Paul and his money.

Some people believe that the Apostle Paul came to jail having been a pretty wealthy man but even a wealthy man's money runs out after a while. Paul was the greatest fundraiser the Christian church has ever known. He not only sent help to other churches, you'll find especially the church at Philippi sending offerings to the Apostle Paul. He was a great promoter of the faith, a sharer of the needs of the kingdom and people brought those offerings to him.

Hear me. Faithful stewardship advances the gospel. Any vision must be paid for. Principle number one. Faithful stewardship advances the gospel. You must be a

giver if you're going to be like Jesus. If you're a member of Olive Baptist Church you should be a tither. You ought to give a tenth to begin. If you make \$100 you ought to give God a \$10 bill. If you make a thousand, you ought to give Him \$100. If you make \$10,000, you can do the math. You know how to move the decimal point. As God blesses you, you ought to give. That's where you begin. That's not where you stop. Over and above that you give an offering. In this ministry we do here, we give our tithe. We build a building with Relaunch. We give to missions like we gave to the Gideons just a few days ago. We'll give this week to the Annie Armstrong offering to build churches all over America with our own North American Mission Board.

On the 28th day of May next month we're going to all go down to Warrington and fill that big, big hall. There's over 1,000 seats in that auditorium. We're going to take people down there on a Sunday night and we're going to have church and I'm going to preach and we're going to fill that place up and we're going to take an offering for Warrington that night. We'll have some up-front costs we've got to do and we'll take a freewill offering. Let me tell you, you're never more like Jesus than when you're giving. I know it's tax season. I know you're fixin' to pay your taxes. I understand that but the Lord loves a cheerful giver and bless God, somebody ought to shout and smile and write a check so the gospel can be advanced. We will never do what God wants us to do being stingy with what God's given us. Paul and his money. You find the first principle of gospel advancement right here in this text. Faithful stewardship advances the gospel.

Now number two. I want you to look at me with Paul and his methods. He had three of them. You can give your money. You can do these other three things too. You can do these next three things. Paul and his methods. What did he do? Look at it right here in the text. He was preaching. He was teaching and there's one word that's not written here but we learn it from the great context of scripture is that he was writing.

Three things I want you to see. The principle here is that kingdom preaching advances the gospel. Look at this. He was in verse 31 preaching the kingdom of God. Have you ever run a reference chart all the way through scripture on the kingdom of God? You'll find Jesus using that phrase again and again and again and again. Luke loves it. Luke probably uses it as much as anybody. The kingdom of God.

There's two or three things about the kingdom of God you'll find all through scripture. There are many other things too but the kingdom is that you must enter the kingdom. Jesus is always saying a man's going to enter the kingdom or he can't enter the kingdom. You've got to go in. Friend, let me tell you, when you preach the kingdom you are preaching at everybody that's outside of Jesus is outside the kingdom and you've got to come in. Anybody that's in this room today that's never come inside of the kingdom, come into Jesus Christ, the Bible says about you that you are lost. You're on the outside. You're on the road to hell. You're already being condemned. People come in here from time to time and say, "Man, I walked out of there and I felt condemned." Friend, you don't have to feel condemned. You're condemned already.

The Bible teaches that. Come in. Come in. Come in to the kingdom. You've got to come in.

The kingdom of God is not a monarchy. It's not a democracy. It's a theocracy. Jesus is the head. He's at the top. You're not. I'm not. We're not. He is and we bow before. There's just one king and His name is Jesus. Paul was in that rented quarters paying his own way taking up offerings and sending them out, preaching the kingdom of God.

I want to ask you today. Have you ever entered the kingdom? Are you a preacher of the kingdom? Do you share the kingdom? Oh Lord, it's going to be a sad day for some of you. You're going to get to heaven and you're not taking anybody with you. Spurgeon says you're going to get a crown but it won't have any jewels in it and he said, "You will be an embarrassed saint when you get there wearing a crown with no jewels." Friend, you ought to be talking to somebody. If you're in the kingdom you ought to be inviting those on the outside of the kingdom inside the kingdom.

I've got an old boy, he lives on my circle and we walk. I walk this way and he walks that way. So we meet about three times. I'm walking. He just walks Monday, Wednesday, Friday. I was walking the other day and the Spirit of God, I'm telling you, He spoke to me. He said, "Alright, Ted. I want you to stop and talk to him." I said, "Lord, I've already talked to him about a half a dozen times." He said, "Yes, stop one more time." I said, "I don't want to." And the Holy Ghost cleared his throat. He doesn't have to say much, Amen? I said, "What?" He said, "Who's the King and who's the subject in this deal right here?" I said, "The subject, that would be me." He said, "Well you get your... up the hill right here. When he comes and when he smiles at you, you take your earplugs out and quit listening to Adrian Rogers preach and do what Adrian's telling you to do." I said, "But I'd rather listen to Adrian. You know, I'd rather listen as do. I'm a member at Olive. We'd all rather listen as do."

So I stopped. I invited him. He turned me down again. I said, "You ought to come." "No." I tried to press a little. "You know, that's just not for me." I said, "How are you doing?" He said, "Well I'm not feeling real well." He told me he's got a little illness. I knew about that illness from some family members. God gave me an opening to be kind. You know, you can use kindness. You don't have to be mean as the devil to preach the gospel. It's okay to be sweet. For those of us that that comes natural that's one thing but for the rest of ya'll that's hard.

Your job, if you're in the kingdom, you are assigned a preaching post. Mine's here and around that circle. Some of yours is in a school, in a business, in a truck. You will advance the gospel as you peach the kingdom. Kingdom preaching advances the gospel.

Number next. The second and third principle is that inspired writing advances the gospel. Now you don't find that laid out in this text but when you begin to read the epistles we know that while Paul was in his own rented quarters he wrote four letters.

He wrote the book of Ephesians. He wrote Philippians. He wrote Colossians and he wrote Philemon. From his desk in his rented quarters and he sent out those letters. You read them and I read them even today but when Paul sent them out he sent to Ephesus an encouragement. He sent to Colossae encouragement. He sent to Philippi encouragement. Then I'll come back to this one. He sent to Philemon a very personal letter that we'll talk about in the conclusion of this sermon.

Hear me. Are you an inspired writer? You know how God'll use you in the kingdom? With a pen. You ought to handwrite notes to lost people and saved people and you ought to put specific stuff in there of how you're praying and blessing them and encourage them. I got one of the most blessed notes from a young man in this church this week. He put specific things in that note handwritten. I've got it on my desk. I keep a lot of handwritten notes and post them in a file I've got but this one I've kept on my desk. Why? Because every day I read it, it encourages me. Paul was a writer. You ought to be a writer. You say, "Argh." Yeah, don't give me argh. I can tell you can't spell. You've got a dictionary. I look words up all the time. Smart people can't spell. I'm telling you, you need a dictionary. I look them up. I'll misspell.

Texting. I sent a text this morning. I sent several as a matter of fact. In my quiet time, my prayer time, I texted this morning. Craig White is the new pastor at Pisgah Baptist Church. He starts today, his first sermon at my home church. He'll preach to about a hundred people. I sent him a text. I said, "Son, I'm praying for you." My momma and daddy will be there. He's a former police officer. I told him, I said "Carry your gun." I said, "You're legal. You may need it when you crawl up in that bunch, I'm just telling you." Man, I prayed for him.

I got a group text from six of my pastor friends this morning. Mack Brunson sent it from First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida. If I called the other preachers' names, you'd know nearly every one of them. We just went back and forth to each other this morning, "Praying for you, preaching. What are you preaching on? Preaching on this." I was so encouraged. You ought to be an encourager. If you want to advance the gospel you ought to preach it but you ought to write it. You ought to send a text, an email, a handwritten note, a typed letter. You can send out the word.

Some of you ought to write a book. Outside of the Bible, do you know the most read Christian book in the history of the church? *The Pilgrim's Progress*. If you've never read it, you ought to read it because this generation alive today has not read it like the generations gone before. Bunyan takes us so many places. Oh great books encourage us.

I got through. I got through to Rosenberg this week and we've got a tentative date for old Joel to come preach for us next year. Hallelujah. He's writing a new book and wants to sell it. That's how we got him to come. I said, "I'll take it." We ain't got it firm, firm but we've got it tentative. We're trying to get him to come. Man, what a writer. You ought to be a writer.

How do you advance the kingdom? You advance the kingdom through faithful stewardship. You advance the kingdom through kingdom preaching. You advance the gospel through inspired writing and number next, developing disciples advances the gospel. Look at it right here in the text. He was preaching the kingdom of God and then he was teaching – look at this – concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. That's the development of discipleship. Paul's in jail. People are coming by. He's preaching the gospel but he's also teaching the Christ life. It is our job to preach and teach the Christ life.

Friend, until you understand the Christ life, until you understand Galatians 2:20, until you understand Romans chapter 12:2. I want you to look at this verse where Paul said: *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.* Now look at verse number 2. *And do not be* [What's that word? Say it out loud. Don't be] *conformed to this world* [When you first get saved you're conformed to this world], *but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.* Now leave that up there, Sharon. I want you to look at it. Conformed. You are either conformed to Jesus or conformed to this world. Many people get saved and they've never moved to transformation by the power of the Holy Ghost within them because they've never been disciplined and taught and someone's taught them the death to self and alive to Christ.

When you get saved, you've got to die to you and live to Him. Some of us are just putting on a show. That's what the devil does in II Corinthians chapter 11. The false apostle is like the devil who was an angel of light. He's lost in his heart but he's acting like he's a Christian. We've got folks that are saved that are acting like the world because they've never been transformed. Jesus went through transformation on the Mount of Transfiguration and that that was within him got on the outside. What you've got to do is be disciplined and help others understand how the Jesus that's in you has got to get on the outside of you and live through you. It's called Bible transformation through developing disciples. Don't be conformed to this world. Be transformed. Paul is teaching this to these folks.

So principle number one, as we find it with Paul and his money, his faithful stewardship advances the gospel. Then we find with Paul and his methods that kingdom preaching advances the gospel. Inspired writing advances the gospel. Developing disciples advances the gospel. Then we see Paul and his men, Paul and his men. Now look in this text and there are two principles here. He stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and he was welcoming all who came to him. He was teaching with all openness.

Now get the picture. Paul's in his rented quarters, chained to a Praetorian Guard. He's paying the rent and people are coming by to visit. They just drop in. Who came? We don't know all that came but we know some that came. There are two principles of gospel kingdom advancement found in this. Number one. Spiritual friendships advance the gospel. Friend, you ought to have deep spiritual friends

because with those friends you will advance the gospel. Who came to see Paul? I wrote down a group of them here. Just listen to this. Luke Aristarchus came. We can find all of these in scripture somewhere that had come by while Paul's there. Tychicus, he's the one who carried the letter to Ephesus. Paul wrote the church at Ephesus, gave it to Tychicus, and he carried the letter to the Ephesians.

Timothy. He stayed in Rome part of the time. Paul will later write I Timothy when he gets out of jail in two years because he's going to be free. Nero's going to find him not guilty. He's going to get out and he's going to do some more work. Then he's going to be found in insurrection and be brought back to jail and he's going to write II Timothy the second time. Timothy was there with him. Epaphroditus, he's the one who brought the offerings from Philippi. Mark, you remember Mark? Paul got hacked off at Mark and ran him off. Now Mark's back with him and they've reconciled. Do you have any friendships you need to renew? Some folks that let you down? Christian brothers? Don't go to glory with that dangling. Mark hung out in rented quarters. Justus was there. Demas.

The greatest Christian I think Paul ever knew was Epaphras. He had more glowing things to say about Epaphras. He was one of the greatest gospel men found anywhere in scripture. He didn't write any letters but you find Paul naming him E-P-A-P-H-R-A-S. You don't even know who he is. Nobody knows him but he's one of the greats. He's one of Paul's closest confidants.

You know how you advance the gospel? You have spiritual friendships and you never give up on them. Some of those are one on one and then some of you need to get in a small group. Some of you need to join Olive Baptist Church today because this is where you're going to find spiritual friendships. You're not a member of this church but you ought to be a member of this church. When I give the invitation and I stand down here in a few minutes you ought to walk right down and say, "Pastor, this is where I need to be. I need to develop spiritual friendships here." Some of you have moved here from Atlanta and Texas and California. Some of you the Navy brought here. You say, "We're not going to be here long." You're going to be here long enough to develop friendships. You ought to come be a part of us. Don't just join the church and come in this big room. Then you've got to go in one of these small rooms. Get in a connection group. It's there we'll really do business.

Outside of that we have some small things called D-groups. They meet. They're just organic, just bubbling up. We had a meeting of over 200 men here Thursday night and a lot of those small groups are just rising up out of that three or four men here, three or four there. My son-in-law's in one of them. They meet at a bait shop every Thursday morning at 6:00, he and three other guys. They don't even go fishing but they go to the bait shop. Then they tell me, "We really do, pastor. We're going fishing. We're fishers of men today." I said, "Praise the Lord."

You ought to be hanging out with three or four guys, three or four ladies. Men with men, women with women. The vice president's right about that. Yes he is. You'll

see me down here after church today. Beth Harris, my administrative assistant has been with me 15 years. She'll be hanging around. She takes notes and helps me with a lot of stuff here but we don't ever go eat together. We don't ride in the car together. That's as presidential as I get. Men with men, women with women.

There are times you've got to talk and you've got those – I understand that. Don't put yourself in a compromising situation. You say, "Well I wouldn't ever do anything." Yeah, but you don't know who's looking. I took my daughter to dinner one night and had a guy sent me a note and said, "Who are you having an affair with?" That's a true story. He thought I was having an affair with my daughter. He didn't know who I was. He was just a smart aleck. I've got another word for that if I was just talking to some guys. I wrote him back a letter. I blistered him. You half infidel, you don't know what you're talking about. I took it as a compliment. A young lady, pretty good looking, I thought, you know. If he thought I could pull that off, I mean he must have thought I was really something.

Let me tell you, you've got the culture that's going to come against you but the culture cannot stop the gospel. That's why you ought to be in a group. You ought to join this church. You ought to have spiritual friendships. Amen. Paul had them. They just came by. Can't you just see them dropping by the jailhouse all the time? In and out. In and out. In and out. He's chained up to that old guard and he's sharing the gospel. The Praetorian Guard's getting saved. Hallelujah.

Spiritual friendships advance the gospel but now principle last. Number six is that personal evangelism advances the gospel. Paul is sitting there minding his own business. He's in a jail. I don't know. He probably got a chair or a table. They brought him something. He had to have a table to write on. Somebody brought him writing instruments.

So Paul is in the jail and there's a knock at the door. Yes. A little slave boy walks in. "Yes, sir?" "I hear that there's a man here that can help me." "Maybe. My name's Paul. How can I help you? What's your name, son?" "My name's Onesimus." "Come here. Tell me about you." You say, "Well, I'm a slave but I ran off." "You ran off?" "Yeah, they sent me on an errand I just didn't go back. I was tired of slave life." "How's it going for you now?" He said, "I'm about to starve to death." "Well how can I help you, son?" "Well I hear that you're encouraging people and giving – it's on the street out here, Mr. Paul. People say if you want help you come here." He said, "Yeah. Onesimus, have you ever heard of Jesus?" "I did. I heard that they killed Him." He said, "Paul, I've been told that some people believe that he didn't stay dead." Paul said, "Yeah, that's right. He's alive." "How do you know?" He said, "Well, I met Him. I was walking down the road and He appeared. He changed my life." "Yeah, he really changed your life. You're in jail."

Paul leads young Onesimus to salvation, one on one. The greatest days of my life are days that I have when I get to lead somebody to Christ one on one. On Friday we had the golf tournament. We were at Stonebrook and a cart came up with an older

man in it. "Brother Ted." I looked over. I said, "John. How are you doing, John?" "Oh I just heard ya'll were playing. I just rode over here to see you." I said, "Yes, sir. Tell me about that." He said, "It was 25 years ago this week, preacher. Twenty-five years ago this week you came to my house." I said "I won't ever forget it." He said, "I just came over here to thank you for coming to my house 25 years ago." He said, "You remember, preacher, what happened?" I said, "Oh yeah. I shared the gospel." He said, "I believed on Jesus. I got saved and it's still working." John Johnson got saved that day. His wife got sick and they live over in Pace and so he now goes over to Woodbine Springs because it's real close to his house and he doesn't get out as much and his sweet wife died.

I'll never forget it. We prayed and he got up and went straight to the kitchen. I said, "John, what are you doing?" He said, "We're going in here and pouring this liquor out." He got under the cabinet and got all his liquor out and he poured it out. I don't know how many dollars' worth. He poured it all down the drain. He said, "We're pouring it all out right now." He said, "Jesus changed my life. It's over." He told me the other day. He said, "I'm telling you, pastor. I'm as saved today as I was 25 years ago." He said, "Nothing has changed." When I get to heaven and I put my crown on – Amen. I didn't have nothing to do with that. That's just God you know but you've got to go. You've got to put the key in the car. You've got to go.

So I took his picture. He had his dog with him. Molly. I bet that dog weighed 400 pounds. That was the biggest dog I've ever seen. She's up in the golf cart. I posted John and Molly and me on Facebook. The next day I got a response from his daughter, Janet. His little girl was a cheerleader at the University of Alabama. I used to go up there. I got my picture made with all the cheerleaders at Alabama because I knew little Janet. John's daughter sent me a note. She said, "Pastor, thank you for coming by to see my daddy. It changed our family."

So Paul led Onesimus to Christ. He said, "Now Onesimus, you've got something you've got to do." "What?" "You've got to go back to your master." "Wow, what?" Yeah, that's what the little one-page book of Philemon is all about. Philemon was his master and Paul wrote Philemon. How do you know he led? Because in Philemon chapter 1 and verse number 10 where Paul said to Philemon, "I appeal to you for my child Onesimus whom I have begotten in my imprisonment." Paul didn't have an affair and have a child. Begotten means born again. In jail. "This is my child. He's been saved. Hallelujah!" Onesimus goes back to walk in obedience. Now that slave card doesn't play in our culture. People get up and say, "Well Paul ought to...." That was the culture he lived in. He sent Onesimus back. Some of you need to stop being so stinkin' rebellious in your spirit and get submissive to the situation you're in and God may just bring deliverance in your soul.

We're here not for our own good and our own glory, we're here for His good and His glory and sometimes in our own submission God gets glory and raises up a miracle unto His name. You never know who's sitting in this room. I don't know who's here today. Three weeks ago I stood out there in that foyer and a tall, big, handsome man

walked right up to me and shook my hand. He said, "Pastor, I really enjoyed church today." He said, "Today is the first Sunday I've been out of prison in 25 years." He said, "I'm living in a halfway house just down the road down here." He said, "They told me if I came here it might be a good place." He said, "I found the Lord in prison and I sure am glad to come by and hear the gospel today."

I don't know who's in here today. There's some drug addict sitting in there that needs to get saved. There's some banker in here that needs to get saved. There's an executive sitting here that needs to get saved. There's a family that's just moved here that's got a good middle income job that needs to join this church and needs to get connected with new people in a new town and a new church. Church, listen to your preacher. We are here for the advancement of the gospel and bless God in Jesus' name the culture can't do one stinkin' thing about it because you can put the preacher in jail but you can't put the gospel in jail and it's going to do what God wants it to do. The devil will get it hemmed up on the way and I'm telling you, God'll squirt it loose over here in another direction. You never know where God's going to place you if you're just willing to say, "I am available."

The only thing that hinders the gospel at Olive Baptist Church is your and our unbelief. When you will not believe God and when you will not act on what God's told you to do, you're walking in unbelief and therefore you hinder the gospel. We dare not be a church that hinders the gospel. Paul preached with all openness unhindered. I don't know what's coming but I'm telling you, we must be advancing.

Can I just be honest with you to tell you, this deal at Warrington, I don't have a clue what we're doing? I've never done that before but all I know is it is a door set in front of us and we've got to go. I've never built a building like this before but we'll go. I didn't know anything about this but God gave us people that did. I don't know anything about doing that down there but God sent us somebody that does. Shaun, he's done it four times. That little hotel keeper looking, taxicab driver guy is a pretty good preacher, isn't he? Amen. For those of you that don't know what that means, Shaun Pillay will be in this next service. He's on our staff. He's from South Africa but he's an Indian from the country of India and so he looks like he ought to be on the Big Bang Theory and talks like that. He preached for us last Sunday and he said the people at UWF thinks he's a guy that has a hotel here in town.

God sent him to us. God sent him here January 1. January 2nd, the Warrington door opened. We spent the whole day down there. Church, listen to me. I don't know what God's got for us next but I'm here to tell you, we must advance the gospel. Who's in? Who's in? Anybody in? Are you in? If you're in, say Amen. I'm telling you, we've got to go. We've got people to win, disciples to make, money to give, a world to conquer. I'm here to tell you, they can lock us all up but they cannot imprison the gospel. Isaiah 55 says God's word is not imprisoned. When you send it out it'll go do what God's got for it to do and it will not come back empty.

I don't know who you are this morning but somebody's here that ought to join Olive. Come on. We're going to sing a song. I want you to come. Somebody's here that's never been saved. You're like an Onesimus. You're like John Johnson. You need to get saved. Today's your day. You ought to come. Some of you say, "Man, I've been in the far country. I've been away from the Lord." Then you ought to come today. Some of you have never joined a small group at Olive and you ought to just walk down here and not talk to anybody and kneel down and just say, "Lord, give me a chance and I'll get in one. I'll get in a small class. I'll start a discipleship class. I don't know what you've got for me but, God, I'm willing. Here I am. I'm ready to advance the gospel."

Dear God, whatever you do, don't be a – if you're going to be a hindrance please go somewhere else and hinder. I've got a list of churches here in my pocket I can send you to right here. If you want to go hinder, I'll help you know where to go. It'll be easy too. You may have to move out of town but I'll help you. Friend, I don't really think you'd be here this morning if you really want to hinder the gospel. The call of God's in this room. It's your day. Onesimus, come on. Epaphras, come on. God's got a plan just for you. I want you to come. I'm waiting. I'm standing right here. There are some other staffers that'll be here. Oh we welcome you today.