



Thank You Notes

Part 3 – Thanking Those Who Stand With You

Pastor Ted Cunningham

It's been a busy week for the Cunningham family. I have found that Sunday is usually the best day for me to check my inbox, return emails, and write thank you notes. So, if you wouldn't mind, can I do my thank you notes to start off this service? We're only halfway through this series so you had better say yes. R.P. is on the keyboard. It's our first time with R.P. Let's see how this goes. Could we get some thank you note writing music, my friend?

Thank you, new Branson Shell Station, for giving me a valid reason to go into Macadoodles. You have brought joy to a lot of Baptists.

Thank you, Walmart cashier, for commenting on the items I purchase. For your information, the Imodium is for a friend.

Does that drive anybody else crazy, the cashier that comments on the stuff you're buying? You want to be like "Hey, a little less talking and a little more scanning." They'll look at you and say, "Oh, you're not feeling very well today?" To which I think, *Knock it off; you're not my doctor.*

Thank you, One Direction, for providing an awesome concert experience that brings dads and daughters closer. Both dads and daughters cry at One Direction concerts, but for very different reasons.

Is that not a great picture of this guy? He's like, "Oh, please, let it be over, please let it be over. Please let this be the last song."

Thank you, rolling suitcase, for the convenience that you bring to my travel and for allowing us to leave the stroller at home.

Thank you, bathroom, for giving me a place to hide from my children for a just a few minutes throughout the day. I wish we could spend more time together, but they always seem to find me.

Thank you, red Solo cup, for saving me time and dishes. Even though you refuse to celebrate Christmas, you will still be my go to cup for summer parties.

Matt Gumm: Thank you, Lord, that after six years of marriage, we are finally making R.P. a grandfather and Katie and I first-time parents. Maybe now R.P. will have something to smile about.

Ted Cunningham: Let's hear it for the Gumms having their first child. Let's hear it for R.P. We love this guy. That's all a Branson act you see right there.

We are going to jump into this Chapter 3 of 1 Thessalonians. So if you have your Bibles, turn to 1 Thessalonians 3. If you do not have a Bible or you're here and maybe it's your first time, all that we share will be on this screen right here so you'll be able to follow along. We are in this book of the Bible and like a lot of Paul's letters, he's writing back to a church that he founded with a lot of new believers. He was run out of town prematurely because of persecution, so he was not able to finish the work there.

We're going to see in the very first verse of Chapter 3 that he even says, "I can stand it no longer; I needed to find out what was going on back in Thessalonica, so I stayed in Athens, but I sent Timothy." Timothy was his young protégé, a younger pastor. Paul says, "I sent him back to Thessalonica to check on you. He has sent a good, encouraging report back to me." Now we see a gentle, pastoral response to this church.

Two weeks ago, we looked at thanking the leaders in your lives. Today we are looking at *Thanking Those Who Stand With You*. Those who stand with you during difficult times, through trials, through cultural pressure for the faith that you profess in Jesus and for some, even severe persecution. He is going to write them and tell them "Listen, you saw this coming. We told you this would happen. We said when you make a decision to follow Jesus; you are going to experience persecution. You shouldn't be unsettled or shocked by this." We are actually going to discover the whole purpose of the church. We'll find the church is a safe place for Christians to gather and encourage one another during times of persecution, to bring joy to one another when the world is dark and when the world is persecuting us for our faith.

We are going to jump right in to Chapter 3. This is the Apostle Paul speaking to the Church at Thessalonica. He's speaking to a lot of young, new believers, making sure they are not unsettled in their faith because of the persecution they are experiencing because of Jesus.

1 So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. 2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ... He's making this case in this letter after Timothy sends a report back because there may be some frustration that Paul himself did not come back and instead sent someone. He's making sure they understand that Timothy has a very important role to play in encouraging the church in Thessalonica. ***...to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, 3 so that no one would be unsettled by these trials.*** That sets the tone for all of Chapter 3.

Paul wants to make sure that they are at peace with what is going on, knowing this was going to happen, knowing this would continue to happen, but knowing we stay strong in the faith and that's why we have each other during times such as this. ***For you know quite well that we are destined for them. 4 In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. 5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter...***

Just as a reminder here... Satan hates you, he hates your family, he hates your marriage, and he hates your Lord. And when you are on his radar, he will do everything he can to throw you off of your faith and to take you away from your relationship with Jesus.

Paul was afraid that in some way the tempter ***had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.*** He's wanting Timothy to encourage them and strengthen them and shore them up, if you would, to make them strong so that they can go through this persecution.

Here's what we learned from this very first big idea. We are going to give some core values of what Woodland Hills Family Church believes and what we've always stood for over the years.

We expect the world to be hostile towards Christ.

It shouldn't unsettle us when we see people coming against the name of Jesus. What we want to spend some time with today is how you and I should be responding towards it, how we should be dealing with the hostility. How many of you can say amen to this? It doesn't take long on Facebook to realize that Christians are very unsettled. We go on Facebook, we yell at the non-Christians, we yell at the courthouses for taking the Ten Commandments down, we yell at a coffee company, we bash this person, and we bash that person. It's sad to me the hostility being displayed among Christians when we should expect that from the world. We should expect hostility towards Jesus because Jesus himself told us this.

Look at what Jesus says in John 15. ***18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first."*** This isn't against just you. Jesus is saying, "They hated me so if you claim the name of Jesus, if you claim me as your Lord and savior, you should expect it." ***19 "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own."*** It's interesting that Christians today seem to be trying so hard to get the world to love us, but Jesus didn't say, "You'll be known as my disciples by the way the world loves you." He said, "You'll be known as my disciples by the way you love one another, by the way you show love to each other." ***As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.***

We do not expect non-Christians to act like Christians.

This is very important. This goes all the way back to my youth pastoring days when senior adults in the church would come to me as the youth pastor in South Georgia and point out teenagers who were visiting our church that were not acting like Christians. I would have to remind them that they are not Christians so why in the world would we expect them to act like Christians. We are glad they are here; we shouldn't be shocked by their actions.

You've heard this idea brought out a lot of ways and I think it's one of Joe White's favorite things we say at this church, but we love the smell of marijuana at Woodland Hills Family Church. I feel we are doing something right. If we smell alcohol on the breath of people, we are doing something right. We're a church where people are going "Who are they? What do they believe? And why would they accept me?"

What's interesting to me... And I just want to set this straight because I get letters a lot from people who didn't like the response they received when they visited our church for the first time. A lot of it's in the

parking lot. I can tell you parking lot stories. One guy cusses out someone for cutting him off. We've had the finger given to people in our parking lot. They're like "If that's your church..."

I'm like "Wait a second. Understand that in this room today, there are a lot of non-Christians, and we're glad they're here. Just like if we have the smell of marijuana... Somebody being flipped off in the parking lot? I don't know if that's a bad thing.

You're probably thinking I'm way out of line, but someone with an anger issue who has not placed faith in Jesus... I think it's a great thing that they are here today, hearing the name of Jesus. That's a good thing.

Now... If one of our elders flips you off, or an elder cusses you out, that's a whole other story. And we've already talked to him about that; you need to know. It should never happen again, I promise you.

A couple of weeks ago, some folks said, "I can't believe the way I was treated."

I want you to understand there is the possibility... You may have had some Christians treating you poorly when you came here and we are going to give God time with them too. But keep in mind you may be dealing with some non-Christians who are treating you poorly. At this church, we don't expect non-Christians to act like Christians. We do not believe in behavior modification. We want Jesus to get a hold of you. We want any life change that flows out of you to be from the person of Jesus Christ, not us telling you what to do.

So, let's make it really clear about the parking lot. You only need to let one person in at a time to be Christian at this church. We've made that very clear. I know that drives people crazy when someone lets two or three cars in. Those are the Christians that are going overboard. We're not all freaks like that. One person in at the end of the service is plenty. That's one person in each row. If you get with the program...

We do not expect Christians to act like non-Christians.

We do expect different attitudes and behaviors. We want our beliefs and our behaviors to be aligned. Time and time again in the scripture, Jesus is sharing with us how our beliefs and our behaviors should align. Don't be unsettled when the world hates you; they hated me first. Love one another. Bond together. Your suffering is a way for Christians to come closer together. He makes that very clear.

This week, I was thinking about this because we were in Chicago for an event and Amy wanted to go to Macy's in Downtown Chicago. Macy's is like nine stories, it's decorated for Christmas, and she is in the holiday mood. So let's go see what it would look like if we owned a nine story home fully decorated. She wanted to go to Santa Land. Our kids are 10 and 12; they don't really do the Santa thing anymore. But we walked through this long maze and it was beautifully decorated. There was nobody there in the middle of the afternoon. I'm singing Christmas carols to give her the full effect. I need to carry sugar cookie car freshener in my pocket just to wave it in front of her nose while we're doing this. She just loves this time of year.

We get to the end and we were met by an elf. He wasn't all that jolly. He said, "Hey, kids, you want to sit on Santa's lap?"

We all kind of looked at each other and Corynn said "Creepy... No, I don't want to sit on Santa's lap." I told him we would just probably go to the exit. Then he rolled his eyes at us. I didn't say anything, but I wanted to say, "I've seen the movie, okay, any you're an angry little elf. You're supposed to be spreading Christmas cheer for the whole world to hear and I don't need the eye roll right now." It's interesting that even in those little interactions it's like "Oh, I'm going to come right back at you the way you're coming at me. I'll take that hat and I'll..." It's this how we get though?

We have to guard ourselves. We do not expect non-Christians to act like Christians, so they have a free pass here at Woodland Hills Family Church. We don't want to tell them how to behave, we want Jesus to redeem their dead soul and bring life to them and then the life-change begins. But we do not expect Christians – those who have placed faith in Jesus – to act like non-Christians.

We expect non-Christians to hate Christians.

It's what Jesus said. We expect that. We expect the world to hate us. However... Now this is where it changes a little bit. If you are tweeting, get the words right.

We do not expect Christians to hate non-Christians.

There's a big difference there. We are not called to that. What happens when we face persecution? I want us to see persecution today – what it is not and what it is. The plain red Starbucks cup is not persecution. By the way, go into a Starbucks; Christmas is written all over the store. They even sell an Advent calendar. It's everywhere. I was going to do a thank you note to them. Thank you for all of it. Some of you are thinking you're going to Dunkin Donuts now. Well you can't in our town, but this is not persecution.

Do you know what persecution is? It's terrorists holding captives. This is persecution. These are men who say, "I place faith in Jesus and will be true to my Lord." Jesus was very clear on this.

Look at what he says in Matthew 10. **32"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."** Then we get one of the most shocking statements Jesus has ever said.

34"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." This doesn't really fit with what we learn at Christmas and in Christmas carols. He's the Prince of Peace, he brings the gospel of peace, and you and I are called to be peacemakers. Blessed are the peacemakers. When he was born, the angels sang Glory to God on the highest and on earth, peace. Now he says, **34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."**

I looked everywhere this week for a Christmas carol that has this thought in it. It's nowhere to be found. So I wrote one. I just started one very briefly. I want somebody here that writes music to take it and run with it. It goes like this:

"Oh, holy night. The stars are brightly shining. It is the Lord and he comes with a sword."

That's what we should be singing to our children at night. That's all I've got; I'm not a songwriter. I stole the first line. The second line is the only one I made up.

But what is Jesus speaking of when he talks about a sword? He's speaking of the sword that many of you have felt in relationships. In the context of this passage, he's going to talk about the sword in the family. Some of you placed faith in Jesus and you've experienced the sword in a relationship between you and your parents or between you and a sibling or between you and a child. Some of you have experienced the sword at work. You have placed faith in Jesus, you proclaim the name of Jesus boldly and you've experienced the sword. You've experienced people saying they want nothing to do with you. And you have experienced firsthand the hostility the world has towards Christ. You've experienced that and the sword has come to relationships. Maybe for some of you, it's at school or at the university. For others, it's in the home.

I'm going to show a video clip from the movie *God's Not Dead*. I have to preface this. This is a scene of a young lady, a Muslim girl, who professes faith in Jesus. She becomes a Christian. It fits the Matthew 10 context perfectly when Jesus said that a father would be divided from his son and a daughter-in-law from a mother-in-law. It will happen in families when the name of Jesus is proclaimed. We see the violent reaction, the sword that comes to her relationship with her dad.

I just want to warn you. If you have children in here, there is a few moments of violence in the second half of this short clip. You have about two minutes once the clip starts rolling. If you don't feel this is something your child should see, I want to encourage you to, within the first two minutes of this clip, just step out. You can step out and come back in or you can step out and we have video monitors in the Family Room as well as in the lobby. I just want to give you that courtesy if you feel it's too much for a small child.

Video clip plays. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLYafQUDrOk>

May that clip help many Christians to end the silliness over a red cup. And may it cause us to realize the sword that comes to many when they profess faith in Jesus and the relationships that are severed because one has chosen the name of Jesus above all names, the only name whereby man can be saved. And all God's people said... Amen.

The church has always been a rallying point for Christians to encourage one another through trials and persecution.

Here's what we know about the church. We will continue in 1 Thessalonians. The church has always been a rallying point. I hope you understand that. Some people wonder what Sunday morning is

supposed to be. Some churches believe it's Bible study. You get together, open the Bible, and you study. Some believe it's primarily worship. You gather together to worship. Some believe it's where you go to serve together. Some believe that it's primarily evangelism. It's where you create a service to invite the lost to come and teach them about Jesus.

So many people can focus on certain purposes or one purpose of the church to the exclusion of the others. We try to balance all of the purposes, but we never get away from this big idea. Sunday morning is a rallying event. This is a time where we gather and every time we gather, this is supposed to encourage us and bring our faith to a place where we can go out into the world again. Again, we are to be in the world but not of it.

Some churches move to the point of becoming not only a rallying point, but a place of isolation. They feel it's so bad out there that they are going to stay away from it altogether and they are just going to meet and be together and stay together because it's the best way to protect themselves. But that's not the case. Jesus said, "I'm sending you out." But remember, we have each other. This is the key. We've always been a rallying point to encourage one another through the trials and persecution that we face. This has always been a place where we can get together with others and be strengthened and encouraged.

It's not a funny scene in the movie, but this scene gets me because it's a simple scene. It's probably not the most spiritual of movies, but I love the dialogue between Captain America and Tony Stark in the movie *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. Let me show you the scene. This is right after Ultron has gone out to the world and the humble Tony Stark is standing there talking about the wormhole that brought the aliens down. You're probably thinking this is a terrible illustration to bring to a church service. All of this is fake; it's not true. I just want to make sure you don't believe a wormhole came.

Tony Stark goes "Do you remember the wormhole and the hostile alien army that came down and took out New York?" They all remembered that. This next picture is Tony Stark and he's giving this big speech. He's saying, "That's the end game; that's where we're taken out." As he looks at the other Avengers, he says, "What was your plan to deal with it?"

Well, leave it to Captain America; he says one word. He answers Tony Stark's question of how they were going to deal with that. He answers it with one word. Does anybody know the word? The word is *Together*. That's all he says.

What does Tony Stark say? "We'll lose."

Captain America says, "Then we will do that together too." That was my favorite line in the movie.

Now bring that into the perspective of the church. We don't lose the end game. We aren't taken out by an end game. That's our encouragement. This is why we have the hymns. Raise your hand if you love the old hymns. Go back, study the hymns, sing the hymns, and read the hymns and do you know what you'll read? You'll read about Christians encouraging one another with thoughts of heaven.

We realize we have 70 years, 80 if we're strong, but this is a very short period of time. We know the end game. And when we gather, we are to encourage one another with those words.

In 1 Thessalonians 4, that we will see next week, Paul is speaking and is encouraging the Church at Thessalonica. He's telling them "You're concerned about those who have fallen asleep" or those who have died, and then he gives the gospel as clear as it is anywhere in this book. He says, "We believe Jesus died and rose again." That's the gospel. "And we believe he will bring back with him those who have fallen asleep and we will all be together again one day." At the end of Chapter 4, he says, "Therefore, encourage one another with these words. Remind each other all the time and every time you are together of this truth."

This past week has been a great week in Branson. It's probably the highlight of our week, right up there with Christmas. You've seen this scene. These are pictures from Branson. There's a Pearl Harbor survivor. I don't think anybody in the country does it better. When I go out and do marriage conferences, I kind of feel like I get to be an ambassador for Branson. I was in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and I asked how many had been to Branson. Maybe about half of the place raised their hand. I love meeting folks my age and asking them if they've been to Branson. I get this response almost every time: "Oh, my parents love that place."

I'm like "Well, you should love it too; come on down. We have shows that work for you as well." Then I sing a little country music for them and hopefully they will show up one day. But I tell them this. I tell them I believe there is nobody better at honoring the men and women who fought and served for our country. These men and women understand duty, loyalty, etc. I love scenes like this. Here are two guys that served together in war. They fought together. They bled together. They sacrificed together. They became men together and they grew up together.

You find them back in Branson. Sometimes it's just two buddies sitting down at a table wearing matching hats. Other times, you go into hotels and you can't get breakfast; the waffle stations are packed because it's a whole battalion, a whole platoon full of soldiers – men who said, "We fought together and it has bonded us." You see scenes like this. This one still gets me every time. Guys who meet for the first time after war here in Branson. They begin sharing their stories. There's a bond that forms because they are together, they fought against hostility, but they are encouraging one another.

Let's continue in 1 Thessalonians 3. **6 But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. 7 Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith.** "The stories we are getting and the reports we are hearing are doing so well for us as we're going through these difficult and challenging times." **8 For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. 9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.** He's saying he knows there is more work to be done.

Can I just say, as we understand and experience hostility, this is the key point of the whole morning.

Christians fuel one another's joy, not hostility.

We are to be experiencing joy in the midst of trials and persecution because of one another's faith. Yet, as one dad told me at camp this past summer... He said "Ted, all the news has become, all the media has become, all television has become is for me to turn on the television in the morning and find out what I should be outraged about that day. Then I go to social media and spend the rest of the day getting other Christians to be outraged about what's going on."

Maybe, follower of Jesus, it's time that we begin fueling one another's joy. Maybe it's time we see what's going on in the world around us and we're not shocked or unsettled. We are not surprised because Jesus said this was going to happen. We gather together, we rally together, and we encourage one another. We build one another up.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. 12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. And that's going to be in Part 4 as we look at 1 Thessalonians 4.

Let's look at some thank you notes as we close out. How can you take this and who can you thank as a result of today's message and today's text.

Let's just start by thanking your church family for standing firm. You're gathered here today and a lot maybe you don't see. As part of a church, we have to make a stand. We stand against sin. We have to protect the church. We have to keep sin from taking root in the church like cancer and spreading throughout the church.

Someone asked me the other day if I was worried about all the laws being passed and everything changing. I think some churches will have a hard time, but my sad, sad thought the last few weeks has been that there will be a lot of churches that will never be persecuted because their message is changing with the times. It's just sad for me. I don't think anybody is going to come in and shut down the church that's not proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and what the word of God teaches. If a church says I'm not going to proclaim that, that's not going to be the truth, I won't stand up and declare this a sin or this a sin or this a sin that goes against God... If I'm not going to do that, I think we're fine.

But a church that does stand on the truth of God's word, a church that boldly proclaims the name of Jesus... Let me just encourage you, church; expect hostility. That doesn't mean we are angry people. I think that's the problem with this word we're using today: *tolerance*. I don't think we become angry as a result of it because in the midst of that, we are going to be fueling one another's joy. I believe some churches won't have a hard time because they are going to stop proclaiming the truth. I want you to be thankful for Woodland Hills Family Church because this church will and we have elders who will keep us on that track and we have leaders that will keep us on that track. We want you to stay on that track.

We will continue to proclaim the name of Jesus and what his word teaches, and we do not want to stray from that.

Thank your church family for encouraging you. We probably get this one the most. Folks are encouraged when they come here. They are encouraged by those they meet and those who greet them. Some have a very difficult time. I love the sensitivity in our church. Some of you come in with a difficult time and someone notices that... I just want to encourage Woodland Hills to be that church where if you see someone struggling today, if you see someone having a difficult time and you see the pain on someone, take a few moments, go over, and ask how they are doing. Don't settle for the Christian response of "I'm good." Ladies, you are awesome at this because you can smell something on other people. You can just smell that someone is hurting. Go to them. Encourage them. Give them joy because whatever they are coming in here from, they are probably returning to, and they need that word from you.

Thank someone who defended you before others. Thank the person who stood up for you, who walked alongside you. Here's what I'm noticing a lot more in relationships today and I see it online, but I see it in interpersonal relationships as well. I see two mutual friends who are mad at each other, frustrated with each other and I'm friends with both of them, but I don't really want to get involved because they are both okay with me right now. I don't want to come in and call what I'm actually seeing because then they may turn that hostility towards me. I prefer it to be on them. But a true friend steps into the situation. A true friend says, "I'll roll up my sleeves and I'll get a little messy in this."

Some of you have stories like that. I do. I have three or four people in my life who need a regular... It's a bond. I haven't been to war. I haven't been in the foxhole with a fellow soldier that bonded me with him because of the hostility that was coming against us, but I've had plenty of hostility towards me and I have people who have stood up for me. I will forever, as long as there is breath in my lungs, be grateful for those individuals. Part of this series is me going to them and saying "Thank you. I haven't forgotten what you did eight years ago." "I haven't forgotten what you did 13 years ago. And I'm grateful that you're here because it's probably going to happen again real soon." Paul said expect more.

I think we just want to get through certain trials and persecution, thinking that will be it. No, I'm going to get through them being fueled by my church family because more of it is coming. I'll be honest with you, as a pastor, there are times I say, "Yeah, I'm not going to say that because I kind of want to have a good Monday. I want to be at peace on Monday and I don't want to deal with all the drama." But you have to say it anyway. Some of you are shocked. You're like "You hold back on things that you say on Sunday morning?" You have no idea. It's the Lord and Amy Cunningham that say, "You're not going to say that, are you?" They help me find a new way of saying it. I want to thank those who have stood with me through very difficult times and you should find those people in your life and thank them as well.

Thank someone who walked through a trial with you and they were there the whole time. We all have friends for different seasons. We all have people in our lives that are there for a short time and it's confusing at times for us because they were really there for us for a time and now we don't see them. God brought them into your life for a season and maybe five or ten years later you go to that person and

say, "When I was going through one of the most challenging times in my life, you were there. Thank you."

For some of you, it was in your fight with cancer. You, while getting chemo treatments, sat next to another individual who encouraged you the whole time. Their family encouraged you. Their friends encouraged you. Now that you have won that battle, you don't see that person as much anymore. You don't spend any time with that person, but maybe years later, a thank you note is in order that you send them back a note to say "Thank you, you were a great source of strength and joy for me during a very difficult time."

Thank someone who fuels your love and joy. I'm convinced many of us need to start trimming some friendships out of our lives. The person who feeds your hostility... You need to find some people who can fuel your love and joy. Find those people; thank them for being that constant source of encouragement in your life.

Father, it's in the name of Jesus that we thank you for this church. We have much to celebrate here. We celebrate with Matt and Katie that you have blessed them with this pregnancy that we have prayed about for years. Thank you.

Thank you for the joy that we experience when we come and gather here each week together. May this church never be unsettled by the hostility the world shows Christ. May we never show hostility back to the world. May we bond together. May we be known as followers of Jesus by the way we love one another. May, on this Sunday morning and throughout the week, Christians in this church find one another as a rallying point to be encouraged and strengthened in their faith.

We boldly and unashamedly here at Woodland Hills Family Church profess the name of Jesus Christ, the name above all names. The only name whereby man can be saved. I ask for that person right now who is here today and they are not a Christian – they've never professed faith in Jesus – that today would be the day they say, "Okay, Lord, I repent of my sins. I believe you are the only one." And may they place faith today in the person of Jesus Christ. For that, we are grateful.

And it is in the name of Jesus that everyone agreed and said... Amen.