



Why, God?
I Will Worship Through It All
Part 3 – Worship When the End Draws Near
Pastor Ted Cunningham

Today, we're looking at the lyric we just sang: "Worship when the end draws near. Worship when my strength is failing. Worship when my time has come." We're called, as a church, to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. Today, on Mother's Day, we do both. We rejoice and we mourn at the same time. We're rejoicing today as we celebrate moms. So, help me celebrate Mom today. I love this day. I love watching people bring Mom in. Some of them have wheeled Mom in. Some of them have helped Mom in. I just met some parents who are here before their kids and there's aren't many seats left in this service. I asked if they wanted seats for all their kids and they said, "No, they're on their own." So, they are probably over at the Chapel and Mom and Dad are here. And we're grateful for that.

We rejoice over many who I saw come in who are expecting. We rejoice with you. We're grateful and look forward to having your child in Critter Street. I look forward to your baby dedication. Some of you just received word that you're expecting. We rejoice with you. We also... And this is what makes church life challenging at times. It's when we mourn and rejoice all at the same time. Today, we mourn with you who have lost Mom. I saw several posts this week that this is their first Mother's Day without their mom. We mourn with you.

For some you, you've lost a child. We heard from several people in our congregation this week who lost young children. Some have miscarried. There are some who doctors have told them, after trying all sorts of fertility treatments and all of that, that they cannot conceive. We mourn through all of that with you. We rejoice and we mourn on Mother's Day, and we're grateful that you've chosen to make this a special day.

Today, we're going to talk about *Worshiping When the End Draws Near*. You're thinking that's just kind of an odd Mother's Day message, but hopefully, you'll be encouraged and challenged in your faith today through the Word of God. We have a lot of scripture to get through today, so we're going to jump right into it. I know there are some senior adults in here and when you see this on the screen, I want you to amen it if you think this is true.

Aging ain't for wimps. Boy, it was much louder at 8:30, I gotta be really honest with you. Aging ain't for wimps. How many of you are feeling the effects of aging this very morning? Look around the room. Yeah, aging ain't for wimps. We have a passage of scripture in Ecclesiastes 12 that uses the word picture of a house to describe the body.

Just talking about that for just a second, there are a ton of young people in here going, “Well this is a message for old people. This isn’t for me.” Isn’t it something that as we talk about aging and as we get one of the clearest descriptions of aging and the body aging in scripture, it’s addressed to you, young person? It’s addressed to the young people in the room who aren’t thinking about aging at all. Like last night, you ate whatever you wanted to eat without giving thought to your metabolism, without giving thought to whether or not you would have to get up in the middle of the night and deal with it. How many of you that’s you? Last night you ate and drank whatever you wanted, and it just didn’t bother you?

Watch how this passage starts off. Ecclesiastes 12 – ***1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth...*** The word *remember* here isn’t just acknowledging God; it’s in your words and your actions and your beliefs in your life. With your whole life, think through your creator. Make the most of your age. Make the most of your youth.

...before the days of trouble come... That’s called aging. There are days coming where you’re going to have to think through what you eat. There are days coming when the waitress comes to take your drink order at 6:00 pm and you’re going to look at your watch. “No, I can’t have anything to drink now. After 3:00, I can’t have tea. Is it caffeinated?” You haven’t thought about any of that. But the day is coming where you are going to.

...and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them...” At the beginning of this series, as we asked questions to God, we asked some questions in the first two weeks that didn’t really... Are you going to continue to worship even when you don’t have clear answers? Today, we have clear answers when it comes to life and death. And we are going to see this in the scripture. The answers are there for us. We will know them.

I want to make sure we go back to what we said in Week 1. Remember, **don’t confuse your preferences with the promises of God.** My preference is that as I age and when I die, I don’t suffer. That’s my preference. How many of you would prefer not to suffer on your deathbed? Yeah, it’s our preference, but, guess what, that’s not been promised to us. Now, we are promised that one day there would be no more pain, no more suffering, and no more mourning.

The first funeral I ever did as a pastor I was actually asked to lead the worship. It was a young mom that lost the fight to breast cancer and her two teenage daughters sat on the front row. Dad was there, and he said, “Ted, would you sing Beulah Land?” Beulah Land is a southern gospel song and I gave it my best shot to sing it. I’ll never forget that dad getting up and coming around to his two daughters and hugging them. Their thoughts had changed, and their thoughts were on heaven. The day where there will be no more mourning, there’ll be no more tears. Pain and sorrow and suffering will be gone. But here, I’m not promised that.

The day is coming where I’m going to say, “I find no pleasure in them.” And staying alive is like a part time job. I’ve had senior friends that I have invited them to do something and they’re like, “Oh, I better check and see what my appointments are today.” That’s because they have stuff to do and they are being taken care of and they’re looking after their health.

Now, watch how the word picture carries through Verses 2 – 5. **2 ...before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark...** Your vision becomes impaired. **...and the clouds return after the rain...** Here we get this image of the house. **3 ...when the keepers of the house...** This is speaking of the hands and the arms when they lose strength. How many of you remember when grandpa used to be able to whip you? And then that day came when you were like, *I think I can take him because he doesn't have the strength. ...tremble, and the strong men stoop...* You see this. They make their way along. It's speaking there of the legs and knees and just being more crippled in the legs and not being able to get along like you used to.

...when the grinders cease because they are few... You know what that is; that's your teeth. Your teeth are going. You took care of them, you got your cleanings, you did dental appointments and all that, but you know you weren't given teeth to last hundreds and hundreds of years. Your teeth are falling apart.

...and those looking through the windows grow dim... I had to go back to Pearl Vision this week. I have this... It's almost like fish line that holds the bottom of these glasses in. When I got them a couple of weeks ago, that line wasn't tight and when I pulled them out of my bag, that lens had popped out and was left in my bag. I put them on, and I was like, *Oh boy, here it is; it's starting; I'm not seeing really well this morning. Oh, it's not there; okay.* Have you ever walked around the house with your glasses on your head going, "Honey, have you seen my glasses anywhere?" This is aging. It's not for wimps.

Now watch verses 4 and 5. This is fascinating to me. What used to be a normal part of life that we actually take for granted becomes very threatening in old age; it becomes difficult. In your youth, you'd just hop in the car, go somewhere, do what you have to do, and then go home. You don't give it a second thought. But as you get older, you literally have to plan it. My parents plan routes where they never have to take a left-hand turn. How many of you are at that point where you're like, "I'm definitely not making that left-hand turn?" But we never would have thought about that in our twenties or thirties.

4 ...when the doors to the street are closed... We used to have a term we used a lot in church when I was growing up: shut-in. We had a shut-in ministry, a ministry to those who couldn't even get out of the house anymore because they didn't have the ability. **...and the sound of grinding fades...** "I've lost my eyesight and I'm losing teeth and now I'm losing my hearing."

Amy called me three weeks ago and said, "I made two appointments with Travis for you." If you're new to our church, Travis is our ear, nose, and throat doctor in town. I said, "Two appointments? What's going on?" She goes, "At 10:00 on Wednesday, he's going to clean out your ears. And then at 11:30, you go back for a hearing test." This was all on the phone. I'm sitting there wondering what I did or didn't do that I was supposed to? I went in for the test and Travis did a great job. He cleaned out my ears and I went back at 11:30 for the hearing test.

It turns out I don't have a hearing problem. My hearing is fine. I had a moment where I'm sitting there... I didn't even see this coming. I'm sitting in this box. They put you in this completely sealed box with a vent in it. It's so sealed you have to have air blown into you. They put it on, and they give you three beeps in each ear, changing all the frequency and all that.

I heard all the beeps, but there was a moment where I'm like, I'm a man of integrity, but when she gives me the next three beeps, I should probably tell her I don't hear them. I should probably fail this test for the sake of my marriage. And the men said... But I passed with flying colors, so we have other things we're working on.

...when people rise up at the sound of birds... I love this. This is so senior. It's like you're so rested because you're not doing a whole lot; you're not expelling a ton of energy. You go to bed so early... I heard the story of that senior couple that got up and made breakfast. The husband is sitting at the table and realizes the sun is coming in on the wrong side of the kitchen. He realizes they had gone to bed so early that they got up before the sun set. That's called old age, and all the seniors said... Amen. You go to bed and you're not tired. *...but all their songs grow faint...* Because they are losing their hearing.

5 ...when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets...

I think as we listen to this, we're talking about the body breaking down and aging. I think a good lesson for those in your youth is that we would learn to be more patient with these folks. Like when you're at Sunfest and the lady is writing a check and it takes three, four, five minutes. She's practicing her penmanship and your like, *Man, I've got to get home*. Patience. When you're driving down the road, we've got to be patient. When they're driving, they're not punching it. Some seniors do, but a lot of them have slowed down their driving. Their reactions, their responses aren't that great, so they've slowed it way down.

I was in the DMV here in town. This is a true story. I was there when they were telling a gentleman, a much older senior that he was not getting his license. That's hard to watch.

...when the almond tree blossoms... Speaking here of hair turning gray. When I look around the room, I see all the blossoming almond trees in the room. There are a lot of them. This is a great time. *...and the grasshopper drags itself along...* You just get this idea of not moving really fast. We're getting where we need to go.

Now I'm going to teach this just as the Bible proclaims it. *...and desire no longer is stirred.* I looked through multiple scholars and commentaries on this one to make sure I was accurate as I learned it 20 years ago. This is speaking of sexual desire. Sexual desire goes away. If the Bible doesn't make you smile and chuckle from time to time, I don't think you're reading it right. Because after you lose sexual desire, then you die. This is it. This is the scripture. Some of you are like, "Mom, he's not always like this. We cover other topics." I apologize if you brought your mom from the Catholic church this morning. Desire is no longer stirred... He could have put that up in Verse 3, but that's right here. ***Then people go to their eternal home and mourners go about the streets.***

Whenever I read Verse 5, I think about something I heard Lee Strobel say, "When you die, we will put you in a box, we will put your stuff in a box, we'll have a little potato salad, and then we'll go on." This is exactly what Ecclesiastes talks about in all 12 chapters. In Chapter 1, it says Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. ***The sun comes up and the sun goes down, ever returning to its place. All rivers and streams flow to the sea, but he sea is never full.*** This is life.

As I thought about it this week, I saw this picture. This is Amy and me. I love when I see spouses together and enjoying life together. I always try to show you pictures. I have a condition called Vasovagal that's triggered by fatigue and human suffering. I can't explain it, but I pass out four to six times a year. And in random spots. I never know. I just try to avoid the triggers at all cost.

Two years ago, on a plane, I passed out and she was there with me, taking my pulse, making sure everything was good. But she wasn't with me last Wednesday when I passed out on a flight from Denver to Charlotte. I decided I wasn't going to do a hotel and I was going to just take the redeye. It's a 1:00 am flight, which was a dumb thing to do; I wasn't in that much of a rush to get to the next event. I got on the plane and conked out. I fell asleep. I'm in 3C. I wake up at 3:00 am and something... it had to be the fatigue trigger. I'm passing out. I have 60 to 90 seconds. I've never had this happen where I wake up to pass out.

I immediately think, I've got to get to bathroom quick. For my senior friends, you know exactly what I'm talking about. So, I jumped up. And that's the dumbest thing you can do when you're about to pass out. I jumped up and headed toward the restroom. I got halfway there (it's not a far distance from 3C) when I realized I wasn't going to make it. I turned back around... I'm not going to be that guy that brings a plane down between Denver and Charlotte for an emergency reason. I hate that. I just don't want to be that guy.

So, I just grabbed a seat and I turned around and I flopped down, knowing this is it; I'm about out. But I sat down in 2C, not 3C, right on a woman's lap. I can't explain it but I'm tired... You know if you get awakened in the middle of the night, you don't know what's going on and you're just not altogether there. I had that, plus I was going out. This lady started shoving me, trying to get me off of her. I feel like I'm coming under attack, so I started throwing elbows. I just wasn't comprehending what was going on at 3:00 am at 30,000 feet over Kansas. Then the husband started pushing me. They finally push me into the aisle and I kind of came to. I got up and I said, "I'm so sorry; I'm about to pass out," and I turned around and passed out in 3C.

I got off the plane and I'm thinking I've got to tell Amy this. I was going to keep it from her, but we don't keep secrets. I knew what this was going to do because it's her big thing. She said, "We're getting you a service animal." I went, "Babe, I am not going to be traveling around the country with a Chihuahua. And you have to explain to me what a Chihuahua is going to do to keep me from passing out." She went, "Well, you're not doing anymore redeyes." She's just reminding me... This is Amy walking behind me, guiding me. She's reminding me that things about my life are changing.

I had a friend and a mentor, Dr. Gary Smalley. This picture was my last time speaking with Gary. He had rented a scooter in Nashville at the Opryland Hotel. We were at a conference together. They didn't give him a workshop, but he and Norma were there. I said, "Hey Gary, you can have as much of my workshop as you want." It was the last time that he ever spoke to an audience. But before we went in, he said, "Hey, just push me out into the courtyard." He loved that sun beating on him. Those of you up there in years... I could never stand eating outside and just baking, but he would just sit there and enjoy it. But he was slumped over and people kept coming into my room, which was near there, and saying, "Can you go check on Dr. Smalley; he is out in the courtyard and I don't think he..."

I told them he's just napping. Gary always cracked up. Our joke was... He would say, "Whenever you come out to get me, check my pulse." He always wanted to make people laugh.

I watched Gary Smalley. I have a video of him going down the path on this scooter. He went to be with the Lord about six months later. But aging ain't for wimps.

I'm grateful that I've had many people in my life who have taught me how to age well. There are many people in here who are caring for parents who are aging. Today, we need to just honor you to think that it isn't easy to care for someone whose body is breaking down, whose mind begins to go, but I'm reminded of 1 Timothy 5 that there is great honor in providing for your family and caring for your family. It's hard, it's difficult. We're not even talking about you aging; we're talking about the aging of a parent or grandparent that you're taking care of. Aging is not for wimps.

Let's get into some more of these truths today. Here's a big one – **Life is brief and fragile**. Scripture has so many word pictures to describe how brief life is. For those of you in your youth, please listen to these next three big ideas from scripture.

In Psalm 90, we read, ***10 Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures...*** This is not a guarantee; this is just the general life span. ***...yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow...*** Here upon this earth, we're not promised suffering free zones. ***...for they quickly pass, and we fly away.***

In James 4, we get this idea of a vapor. ***14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.*** That's what Solomon was doing in Ecclesiastes 1. You're here for a little while and then you're gone, but guess what? The grind of this earth keeps going. The sun is still going to rise and it's still going to set, and the rivers and streams are still going to flow. You're here for a little while and then you're gone.

In Psalm 39, we get this idea of a handbreadth. ***4 "Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days...*** The Psalmists were always doing this. Teach me to count my days. Teach me to understand the time that I have is short and that I would make the most of it. That's the key. It's like that country song we all loved years ago and it's still on the radio, *In My Next 30 Years*. When you get that health scare in your 30s, when you get the doctor's report, it begins to change you. You begin to think about life a little differently. But you and I shouldn't wait for an event like that. As followers of Christ, this is how we live our lives. In anticipation of the Lord's return and an understanding of the certainty of death. We're to live to make the most of the time we have left. Not as the world does it, but as we've been called to, as we'll see Paul share in just a moment.

...let me know how fleeting my life is. The Psalmists were always crying out. ***5 You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.*** Even those who feel like they have plenty of time left. Be mindful of your Creator, be mindful of your days. Life is short and life is fragile. You're not promised tomorrow.

Death is certain, but not the end. And all God's people said... Amen. In Ecclesiastes 7 it says, **2 ...for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart.** That's what a funeral is. When you go to the house of mourning, you're taking to heart the death of someone. You should also be taking to heart your death. It's at a funeral you realize life is short.

Some of you just came through graduation and at graduation you're reminded of what? You're reminded of fast that went. It's like they were born yesterday and now they're leaving. Death is certain. If the Lord does not return first, it is a guarantee. The mortality rate is still at 100%, but here's what we can say amen to as well. In John 11, it says, **25** Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"** Do you believe this? Do you believe this? Life is short; it's fragile. Death is certain, but not the end.

And then this is probably the toughest part. This is the toughest truth we have to wrestle with today. The memories of those who die fade over time. We don't want to be a people that spends all of our time trying to keep our name remembered.

The scripture puts it this way in Psalm 103 – **15 As for man, his days are like grass... So, we've got vapor, we've got mist, we've got pass quickly. ...he flourishes like a flower of the field; 16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.** Whenever I think of this, I think about how much I love my yard right now. How many of you love your yard in May? Your yard looks awesome. But come July, not so much. I'm always telling everybody as we pull out of the driveway, "Everybody, look at the flowers and look at the grass. It's awesome and come July, it's going to be so brown." **...the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.**

I like what the daughter of Billy Graham says, *"When I have faced the death of a loved one or stood by the casket of a close friend, the temporariness of life has come into clear focus. One moment the person was thinking and feeling and speaking and hearing and loving, the next moment, he or she is silent and still and gone. The sorrow is magnified when we realize that unless there are people who make an effort to keep the memories alive, that person will soon be forgotten."* This is a tough truth for us to wrestle with, but if you really begin to understand this, it'll change the way you live. Don't live to get your name left on a building. Get to the end of your life knowing you have poured into your children, poured into your grandchildren, poured into people. That's because the only two things that last are the Word of God and people. The buildings will go away.

I shared this years ago at Liberty University because if you go to a college campus, there are names on every building. If you go to Springfield, there is one name that's on a lot of buildings, but guess what? A hundred years from now, if the Lord tarries, let me tell you, no one is going to know who that is. To Liberty students, I said, "You walk under names every single day, multiple times a day, and you don't have clue who these people are because our names are forgotten."

Ecclesiastes 9 puts it this way. **5 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten.** It's probably a good time to say, "Happy Mother's Day." But if you really get this, it will change the way you live. It's not about being

remembered. And we live in a culture that says brand, brand, brand. Brand yourself. Get your name out there. If you can get a viral video with your name attached to it, guess what? It won't matter years from now because your name will be forgotten.

Here's the bottom line. **How you live is far more important than how long you live.** If you're really obsessed with the quality of life... And we have elders who do a great job leading people and helping people with the quality of their life, but what I love is that they truly understand, "I want to give you a better quality of life, so you can serve people. Not just so you can live long to have your name..." No, no, that's not what we're pursuing. We are pursuing that we can be healthy to help other people. How you live life is way more important than how long you live. Don't obsess over how many years. You have 70; you may have 80 if you're strong. You may not even have that many because you're not promised tomorrow. So, make the most of the time you have. Do something with the time you have left.

What you pass on is far more important than being remembered. Now I say, during the grief, cycle... It's very important when people are grieving. I always like to call somebody a couple of months after they have lost a mom or a dad or a brother or sister or a child. In the grief process, it's very important because when they begin to feel these truths... Two or three months down the road, when we've gone back to life and the grind of life has started again, I've had moments in the day or maybe I've just spent half the day not thinking about my loved one that I lost. That's a great time to call someone and tell them a story or to speak that person's name. We say it around here all the time. Don't avoid saying someone's name for fear of what that person might think. Speak their name. It's important in the grief cycle. But the memories fade over time. It's what we leave behind. It's how we live our lives now. Make the most of the time.

Paul put it to Timothy this way. ***6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering...*** This is the illustration of the drink offering we get from Numbers 28 of wine being poured on the altar on the ground. He's just saying, "That's what I feel like right now." I want you to see the emphasis here. It wasn't "In my best years," it was "In my prime years I served the Lord." No, Paul, in this text, is making it very clear that "Up until my very last breath, I will be proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus. Up until my very last breath, I will be worshiping. I am going to make the most... I am being poured out."

...and the time for my departure is near. "I'm not gone yet. I'm almost gone, but I'm going to continue to be poured out until that day comes." May that be your prayer, may that be your commitment that you won't be one of these hot and cold Christians that has good seasons and rough seasons and, "Man I was really on fire there. I was pouring into people, but then I got into me, me, me." The Westminster Confession says the "The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." The chief end of man is not man. The chief end of you is not you. Your chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day...

The reward for the faithfulness of believers. ***...and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*** We have lived with this hope of his return and we wanted to be caught serving the Lord. We wanted him to return with us fully engaged and investing in the lives of other people.

I guess that's one of the things I love about my Paul. I was young Timothy to Gary Smalley. This is Gary at the Opryland a few minutes after that picture was taken of him and his scooter. You can see it parked over there. I got three guys off the front row to help me lift him up and put him in that chair. It was a great moment because he wanted to share seven keys of lifelong love that he wrote in his last book.

I heard him say, "I want to share with you briefly seven keys to lifelong love." I thought, *Oh boy, I better have these ready because is he going to remember all seven.* He had about three of them down. And then it was a pretty precious moment. People went on Amazon to look up the book and they saw the seven keys in the advertisement. Gary, after he got through three, went, "And number 4!" And then he was trying to think. Then somebody would yell out number four. Then he would go, "Oh yeah, that's a good one." And he would share on number four. "Number five..." Somebody would yell out number five. He'd go, "Oh, I love that one. That's a good one." He never stopped pouring into others.

Some of you are like, "I'm not a speaker." Yeah, you are. As you hold your grandchildren... This was Grandma Mary Jane, who went to be with the Lord at 90, holding my daughter, Corynn. I want you to think through... Listen, you can retire from a job. We're not going to get into that big debate and argument today. Retire from your job, do something different. Our whole town is built off the idea of retirement. But don't ever stop serving. Don't ever stop pouring in. Don't ever stop giving.

I'm fascinated by this season of life. There are young people in here right now that think, *This isn't my time to do that; I've got a lot of things to get established. I've got to establish a relationship, establish a job, etc.* Then you get there and then you have this work season and then, at the end of it, your like *Okay, I'm just waiting for retirement.* This isn't the window in which we serve; it's your life, from start to finish, that you serve and pour into others. I didn't get to be with Grandma on her last day, but I still... Her memory... I don't think of her every day, but there are things that happen to me and things that are said and I go *that was Grandma.* Let that be true of you. Are you pouring into your kids?

I had Stephanie create this picture based off a lot of the pictures I have of my grandparents with my children. You don't have a lot time left. Would you take the time you have left and pour it into the ones who have time? Would you make the most...? Some of you, your kids aren't near you. Would you sign up today to serve in Wild Woods and Critter Street? Would you start serving? Your like, "All those things you described about aging, I have it all. I can't get down on the ground with kids." We'll sit you in a chair. There is plenty you can do to pour into other people as you walk along the way.

I love seeing people taking pictures of this, but we're going to give this to you on the way out. And on the back is Psalm 39: 4-5. **4 "Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. 5 You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure."** Would you make the most of the time you have left? That's the message of "aging ain't for wimps." Life is brief and fragile. Death is certain, but not the end. You, the memory of you, your name will be forgotten, but you're leaving a lot of deposits in the lives of other people.

This is where we end with worship. Psalms 73 – ***26 My flesh and my heart may fail...*** And I do; I have a plan. I have one of the most impressive death scenes planned for my life that you have ever seen. I have thought this through. My kids say I think about it way too much. Read your Bible. It's talked about from cover to cover. That we would take the short time we have here to make the most of this; to invest and to pour into other people My flesh and my heart may fail, ***...but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*** And all God's people said... Amen.

Father, we are grateful for the time that you have given us. We're grateful for this day. I pray a blessing over every mom, over every grandmother. I pray a blessing over those who are about to become mothers. Today, we, as a family, mourn with those who have tried to conceive. We mourn with those who have lost children. We mourn with those who have lost Mom, have lost Grandma. Today is a day of remembrance for them. I pray that today is a day filled with those memories, but more than the memories, the deposits that were made, the lessons that were learned, and we are grateful.

Before I say amen, if you've never placed faith in Jesus, some of you, as we talked about life and death today, there are sons and daughters that this is the day you come because for Mom, this is all she wants. She wants for you to be at church with her. As we were talking through the scripture, she was thinking to herself, *If my son continues to live the way he's living, he doesn't have 70 or 80 years. If my daughter continues down the path that she's on, there's no way she's going to make it to 70 or 80 years.* Today is the day that you can confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and make him the Lord of your life. So, I encourage you, as we say amen, to come down and meet with someone from our Prayer Team. Many did after the first service just for encouragement. If you're mourning, if you're rejoicing, if you need a prayer of salvation, come forward

We say all of this in the name of Jesus and everyone agreed and said... Amen.