



Jesus Is
Part 2 – Jesus is Life
Pastor Ted Cunningham
Adam Donyes

Ted Cunningham: We're in the second part of the series *Jesus Is*, and as we get that kicked off today, we take an offering here at Woodland Hills in these baskets. As they come around, we encourage your generosity.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit a sweet lady from our church who lives at the Rose House. She was in the hospital. Her name is Eunice and she's in her 90s. Her family is here as well. Have you ever been to visit someone where your goal is to bless them, and you do none of that; they do it all in return to you? That was Eunice speaking a blessing over me, over our church, over her family that was there.

I was just reminded of why today is an important part of this series with *Jesus is Life* as we talk about being created by him and for him. Didn't Travis do a fantastic job on that song, reminding us of the glory of God that we are created by him, which is what we talk about often, but for his purposes as well. That's what we want to dig into today.

We have all sorts of ideas up here. Life is... hard, precious, short.

Adam Donyes: It's a miracle, it's a gift, it's uncertain.

Ted Cunningham: And this is Adam Donyes; he's on our teaching team. I've asked him to join me today because this is the guy with that passion, right? Whenever we talk about passion, this is Adam. I wore a sweater vest today to kind of bring it down a notch on this side. Adam is a dear friend and what I love about Adam is I rarely have a conversation with him where he's not talking about Jesus and how Jesus is working in his life. His desire to share the Lord with others is truly contagious. That's why I said, "You're going to join me on this part of the series; we're going to do *Jesus is Life*!"

Adam Donyes: You make me sound like Kramer on Seinfeld... which is fair.

Ted Cunningham: I never thought of that, but it's close.

Adam Donyes: If the shoe fits...

Ted Cunningham: Today, we want to talk about how Jesus creates life, Jesus sustains life, Jesus brings new life – and that’s a question we hope many of you settle today – and then Jesus secures eternal life.

If you have your bibles, turn to Colossians 1. We’re going to kick it off with **Jesus creates life**. Years ago, a well-known theologian floated a new doctrine. I just want to help all of us with this today. If ever you hear that someone has come up with a new doctrine, your first reaction should be skepticism. But he taught, and it was brief, the incarnational sonship of Jesus. He taught that Jesus became the son of God at his birth.

In Colossians 1, we are going to read a key foundational truth of our faith. This is something you need to go deep down into your soul with, learn, and apply. Our desire is not to just teach these truths, but also why it matters, how we live that Jesus creates life. If you read with me in Colossians 1: 15-17... You may read it in your Bible or your device or we’ll have it on the screens for you. But here’s what we read:

15 The Son (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created... He was there at creation. ...things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

We often talk about the “through him” part, but we understand that we are created for him as well. You are created with a purpose. We use that term around here a lot. You were created with a purpose; God has a purpose for your life. Often, you’ll hear people say he has a plan for your life, but let’s start with purpose. There is a purpose for each one of you if you are in Christ Jesus. You are to be living out these purposes every day.

The purpose of worship. This is where you are bringing praise to God. That’s why we asked Travis to open with that song. That your life would be worship before the Lord.

Fellowship. You are created by him and for him to live in community. You’re not supposed to do the Christian faith alone. I love this. After the first service, a young man came up to me and said, “I always have a lot of questions about the message and I don’t have anybody to talk to about the message.” And that’s when we introduced him to Home Groups. Rex took him through that where you can get into a group and follow up. You’re not meant to be in the Christian faith alone. You are made for a purpose and that purpose is community or we would use the term *fellowship* as a purpose.

Discipleship. You were created to be a disciple. You were created to become more like Jesus to take on the life and the teachings and the behaviors of your Savior.

Ministry. You were created for Ministry. It’s the fourth purpose. To serve others. It’s not just about you. We don’t say it around here because we don’t want people to think that this is all about you. It’s not all about you. It’s not all about me. It’s about us serving and giving our lives to others. The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve.

Evangelism. Then you have the purpose of Evangelism. You're created to share Christ with others to let them know. So, we are created through him and for him. ***17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.***

In Ephesians 2, we read, ***10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*** You are created in Christ Jesus to do good works, and I'm grateful. I don't know about you, I had parents who saw it as their primary task in life to show me what I was created to do. Too many of us today are comparing our lives to other people. And we're comparing what we are created to do with what someone else is created to do and we can live in envy or we can live in pride. That's not how we're supposed to live.

For example, if I told you today that I'm giving everything I do up, everything I've poured my life into for the last 20 years. I'm not doing any of it anymore and I'm becoming a fulltime basketball coach. Let me finish. The reason Adam chuckles, the reason many of you chuckle is because you know me, and you know it would be absurd for me to pursue sports. It's not something I have in me. My parents learned that about me when I was very young. They didn't push me towards sports. My dad would tell you that I lack several things important to me an athlete: skill, balance, strength, coordination. I didn't have any of it, so they didn't push me in that.

It would be like Adam coming to me saying, "I'm giving up basketball coaching. I'm going to be a fulltime comedian." I would say, "Don't do that. You have not been created in Christ Jesus to do that." This is how we spur one another on to love and good deeds. We're supposed to be encouraging one another, parents with children, believers with one another, created by God and for God, living out his purposes in our life. It would be foolish for a man to live his whole life without knowing and submitting to the will of the Creator. You're created on purpose. Jesus creates life and you are to live through that.

John 1 says, ***3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*** Wow! Think about that. Adam, Jesus creates life and sustains life.

Adam Donyes: Yeah, I love that, right. So, if he's in all things, through all things, and before all things, then he's in everything, which means the good and the bad. It's crazy; you know the story about Jesus being on the water in the Sea of Galilee and there's a huge storm. And he's God. He created the world. Ted just alluded to that. He was there before the foundations of the earth, but he doesn't calm the storm right away, does he? Perhaps that's to allude to the fact that he's letting us know that he's with us even right in the midst of the storm. He could have calmed the storm; he's God. But he doesn't to remind us, "Hey, I with you right in the middle of whatever you're dealing with – cancer, divorce, hardship, finances, whatever – I'm with you in the storm." So, we have to accept everything he's given to us because everything in his life and he's giving us life as a part of his plans for our life.

I love how Chuck Swindoll says this. *"Here is the first truth to claim when enduring the consequences of suffering: nothing touches me that has not passed through the hands of my heavenly Father. Nothing. Whatever occurs, God has sovereignly surveyed and approved (Job 2:3–6). We may not know why (we may never know why), but we do know our pain is no accident to Him who guides our lives. He is, in no way, surprised by it all. Before it ever touches us, it passes through Him."*

So, if Jesus is through all and in all, he's also in my trials and tribulations. And through those trials and tribulations, he can still give me life. He's still using it to do something in me that I might not even know at the time needs to be done in me because he's through all things, including the trials we go through.

The next point is **Jesus sustains life**. So not only does he give life and he is life and he's the epitome of life, he also sustains it. We need to be sustained, right? Acts 17 says, **24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything."**

I love this. I'm a basketball coach, as Ted alluded to. Some of you may not remember this, but Shaquille O'Neil, 7'2", 320 pounds, he used to dunk a basketball in the NBA and then run down the court pounding his chest like he was really awesome. I'm not impressed, Shaq, you're 7' 2", 320 pounds. You better be able to dunk a basketball. You want to impress me? Make a free throw, okay? LeBron James, your 6'8", you're a freak of nature. These guys that hit balls out of Bush Stadium on HGH, that's doesn't impress me. If you want to impress me, give the glory to God who created you.

It's like this brand-new Wonder Works going in on the strip, which I love. It's a crazy building. How many of you have seen it? The crazy architecture; it's upside down. You look at it and see how awesome it is, but then you look at the backdrop and the sunsetting over the Ozark Mountains. I don't know; it's like standing at the Grand Canyon and putting a building right next to the Grand Canyon and wanting to look at the building. I'm pretty sure God is pretty awesome, and he doesn't need any of us.

"Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us." He's not. Seek and you shall find; knock and the door will be answered; ask and it will be given to you. **28 "For in him we live and move and have our being."** I love that. Ted just talked about that in Ephesians 2. That word *workmanship* in the Greek is *poiema*, where we get the word *home*. How beautiful is the word *poiema* that God is in us and in him we live and move and have our being? That's a beautiful thing.

"As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' 29 Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Have you ever thought about this? If I just snuck up behind any of you sitting in your chairs right now and covered your mouth and covered your nose and just took your breath from you and took whatever was sustaining your life... I'm going to take this from you. You're going to start clawing me and scratching me and ripping my hands off you and do whatever you can to gasp and catch your breath. When Jesus talks about how he's the breath of life, he wants us so urgently desiring that breath from him because he knows the breath that he gives and the breath he sustains is far greater than any

worldly breath you can inhale and exhale. So, he says, “Do you desire me like this because in the end, through me, you have your being.”

It says this in Hebrews 1, **3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.** Just by his word. **After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...** How many of you used to hear this saying from your mom? “I brought you into this world and I can take you out.” I had to correct Mom, “Actually, Mom, it says in the Bible that God knit me together in your womb, that he brought me in and he’ll decide the number of days.” She would say, “I don’t care. I’ll still take you out.” But it’s clear that he’s the one that sustain life and he’s the one that gives life and he’s the one that’s given me purpose in this life. He will decide when my days are done.

Ted Cunningham: We talk about this a lot. I always appreciate this about people. Whenever you see people with passion for the Lord in whatever they do, whatever their job or vocation is to see that. My brother and I were in Oxford, Mississippi last week and we had dinner with Jeff McManus. He’s the head grounds keeper for Ole Miss. They are in the top five university campuses in the country for the beauty of their landscaping, and Jeff is in charge of it all. I had fun with it because he is passionate about landscaping, passionate about the grounds at Ole Miss.

He goes, “I wrote a book called *Growing Weeders into Leaders*. I asked him to please send me a copy of it and he did. When you hear him talk about landscaping, you’re like, “I can do this. I want to do this. This guy is good.” He loves the Lord and everything he does has a purpose from his creator. He is turning all these guys with weed eaters into leaders. He wants them to see there is more to your life than just what you're doing. You’re doing this as unto the Lord. He gave you life and breath. Every breath you take is from him.

He said Dan Cathy, the CEO of Chick-fil-A, invited him to go to Augusta National. All the golfers in the room will tell you that’s where they play the Masters. If you see that course on television, it’s just gorgeous. Vibrant colors coming off the screen.

I said, “Certainly, Jeff, you didn’t see any problems with the landscaping at Augusta National.

He goes, “I absolutely did.”

I said, “You're kidding.”

He goes, “They don’t know how to prune.”

And then I found out he wrote a book about pruning called *Pruning Like a Pro*. I just want you to know that if you spend your days landscaping in Branson, we’ve got resources for you. I want you to know your life has meaning and there’s nothing that hurts us more... You see it with basketball players. And high school students becoming college students, you're in that whole age group. There’s nothing we want more than for people to understand the purposes for their life that God has given them and to watch them live it out and how much fun that is.

So, Jesus creates life, he sustains life for his purposes. John Piper puts it this way, *“God is most delighted in you when you are most satisfied in him.”* Living out the rhythm of those purposes in your life.

Jesus gives new life. If you grew up Baptist, you know we didn’t have a service in our Sunday morning, Sunday night, or Wednesday nights growing up where the term *born again* wasn’t shared. We wanted people to know what it meant to be born again, to have new life in Christ.

In John 3, it says, **3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”** It’s not about repairing your life; it’s about finding new life. It’s about the new life that you have in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5 says, **17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!** When we talk about life in Christ, we also need to understand the exclusivity of Christ. We live in a time that is very pluralistic, you can choose whatever way to God you want, everybody has a different path. There is only one path to God and that is through Jesus. We have to be clear on that.

“Ultimately, we’ll all get there,” you’ll hear people say. And “You may go this way and I may go that way...” Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one shall come to me except through me.” We boldly declare it for the foundational truth of our church. It’s what we would call an essential of our church that you place faith alone in Christ alone and it’s only in Christ that you have a way to the Father.

This week, I heard Matt Moore say and I resonated with what he shared because I often feel this in Branson. He says, *“I’m convinced the Bible Belt of America is one of the world’s toughest mission fields.”* We debate this with our friends. We have friends that pastor in San Francisco and Seattle and New York and Miami. They’ll tell us that’s far more of a heathen, pagan culture, harder to... I’m like, “Yeah, but listen to what Matt says and I like it.” *“Persuading lost people towards Christ is hard. But persuading lost people who think they are found – that’s a whole ‘nother animal.”*

We live in a Christian culture in the Bible Belt and we don’t have an issue in Branson with the nativity scene. We don’t have an issue with saying Merry Christmas. Sometimes people can be lulled into this idea just because I’m part of this community, I must be a Christian. The question we want you to settle today is are you born again; have you placed faith alone in Christ alone?

I want to share with you some signs of life. This is very important when we say “signs of life.” This is so you can know for certain that you are a follower of Jesus. Again, I want to be clear as we say, “signs of life,” we’re not saying, “sources of life.” This is the overflow of your salvation, not the source of it. Say it one more time. This is the overflow of your salvation, not the source of it. Jesus is the source of your salvation. These are the signs of life. Growing up, I always got frustrated with the evangelist who would come in... and loved to sow seeds of doubt into the congregation. At ten years old, I would stand out there. He would give an invitation, and no one would come forward on a Tuesday night revival. He would then go to town. He’d say, “Do you know that you know that you know that you know.” I’m like, “Well, I thought I knew. You put it like that, I don’t know; probably not. I’ll get saved again. This will be

number 20. I'm going up again for the 20th time to get saved and baptized so this evangelist will go home. Let's get this thing wrapped up. I'll take one for the team; let's make it happen."

So, that's not what we're doing today. We're not here to sow seeds of doubt; we're here that you know that you know that you know.

I'm a big fan of Dr. David Jeremiah. I just love his steadiness and teaching and preaching. I love how he says the Christian life is not about living a sinless life. You are going to fail. And I love this illustration... Because there are believers who believe Jesus lived a sinless life, which we believe. Therefore, Jesus lived the sinless life, we'll live the sinless life. But we have a sin nature. That's the difference. So, he said the Christian life is about falling down and getting up, falling down and getting up, falling down and getting up all the way to heaven.

Here are some of the signs of life:

1. Do you believe the word of God? A sign of life would be that you are conforming your life, changing your behaviors, changing your language to the scripture, not twisting the scripture to match the way you want to live. That's the difference. You believe the word of God, you trust the Word of God, you go to the Word of God for answers. You spend time in the Word of God, and you are convicted when you read the Word of God. Your life is changing, not today with what we're seeing with so many avoiding topics from the scripture, changing what the original intent of the scripture is to match a culture or to match a lifestyle. No, you believe the Word of God.

2. You make prayer a priority. Is turning to the Lord a first thing when worry sets in, when stress sets in, when trials and trouble sets in? I have to pray it constantly. It's why we pray before we go to bed every night as a family. And then Amy and I pray together before bed because I have to leave it with him so I can sleep. Let's do it right now. We're all doing it. I, state your name, do hereby resign as general manager of the universe and everyone around me. Yeah, their fired. You don't need to be the general manager of the universe. You can turn to the one who created it all. You can turn to him and go straight to him.

3. Are you convicted by sin? Or do you live a licentious life where you think *God is good with me, I'm good with God. He's okay with me. He loves me. Jesus died for me; I've accepted Jesus. Now I'm going to live however the heck I want to live.* That's not the sign of a believer. The sign of a believer is that we're confessing our sins to one another.

4. Desires fellowship with other believers. Do you desire fellowship with other believers? Do you desire for other believers to speak into your life? This fellowship is about me celebrating you and you celebrating me, me loving you and me loving me, me serving you and you serving me. We're pouring into one another. Do you have that desire? Do we frustrate each other from time to time? Do we have to stop the car every now and then, turn the car around? Of course we have to deal with relationships and struggles in those relationships. But we desire community because we know we're created for the purpose of community.

5. Shares Christ with others. If you've ever met a new believer... New believers, it's flowing out of them. They want people to know what Christ has done for them. A sign of life, again, not a source of life, but a sign of life is that we desire to share Christ with others.

Dallas Willard puts it this way... because some of you are questioning right now. You're like, *Oh man, I don't have all of those. Am I truly a believer?* **Grace is opposed to earning but not effort.** Know the difference. We're not talking about this as something to earn salvation. For by grace you are saved through faith, it's not of works, so it's not about earning so no one can boast about it. But effort, working out your salvation, grace is not opposed to that. We're working on those things.

Dr. David Jeremiah puts it this way about grace. *"His grace is inexhaustible, and his salvation is irreversible."* Eternal security. He brings us life and he also secures eternal life.

Adam Donyes: Which is the last point. **Jesus secures eternal life.** So, I'm not a math guy, you guys know that, but here are some equations for you. Jesus + Nothing = Everything. So, there's nothing else that this world could possibly give me apart from Jesus. C.S. Lewis said it best in *Mere Christianity* and I've said this before. *"If I find within myself a desire in which this world cannot satisfy, the only probably explanation is I was made for another world."*

To put that equation another way, Everything – Jesus = Nothing. There is no amount of pleasure, hedonism, success, money, fill in the blank that is ever going to satisfy you. We know that because we've all been there, I've been there where I've woken up the next morning thinking about an activity the night before was going to satisfy only to wake up the next morning still empty. We've seen Tom Brady win the Superbowl and the MVPs and still be interviewed and say, "Something is still missing; I just don't know what it is." I do. Do you want to talk to me, Tom? I'll tell you exactly what it is; it's Jesus. No matter the amount of success or what you have or what you do, apart from Jesus, you're still going to fill empty and void. Some of us in here are still trying to find that thing to satisfy the deepest longings of our soul and I'm going to help you out. Jesus is the only sustaining life factor that will satisfy the deepest longings of our soul.

The other part of that is You – Jesus = Empty/Lifeless. You wonder what's my purpose in life? I tell my students all the time, if I wanted to know how my iPhone worked, if Steve Jobs was still alive, I'd talk to Steve Jobs. Why? He created it. He knows everything about it. I bet you he knows things that it does that I'll never know. He probably knows how to turn it into a hologram somehow. But he created it so he's the mastermind behind it. So, if I want to know about it, I would talk to him.

In the same breath, wouldn't it make sense if we wanted to know our purpose and what our life on earth is for, we would spend time talking to the one who created us because he knows our worth and our value. He didn't create anyone in here just to take up oxygen. No, he created every single person in here with a purpose and he came to give you life because the other one is You + Jesus = Abundant Life. It's why he came. It literally says that in John 10: **10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."** So, when you say Jesus is life and you know him, he came so we would have that abundant, full life.

John 6 says, **47 "Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life."** I love the illustration. There are passages all throughout scripture where Jesus alludes to who he is: the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the Bright Morning Star, the Bread of Life. We know that food sustains us. None of us in this world can survive without food and water. Maybe we would survive a couple of days, but eventually, you're going to be dehydrated, and without food, you're going to die. How many of you in here have ever said, "I'm starving; can we go get something to eat?" Yeah, a room full of liars. Have you ever looked up the definition of starving?

Ted Cunningham: Every day. I'm starving right now. I'm dying over here.

Adam Donyes. I looked up the definition of starvation this week. We have buffets on every corner in Branson; none of you are starving, I promise, okay? Jesus says, "I'm the bread of life." And while we can't physically survive without food and water... He also refers to himself to the well or the living water. He says, "Whoever comes to me shall never thirst again, you'll never be parched again." So, he refers to himself as the living water and the bread of life. Food and water, the two things we physically need to survive and to be sustained. But he's also giving a spiritual illustration there saying, "Spiritually, without the bread of life and the living water, you will not survive, you won't have life." That's a powerful illustration the way Jesus uses words to say, "Hey, I'm the standard of life."

The other thing we need to survive is shelter. He says, "I'm also that, I'm the rock, I'm the door, I'm the shelter of your life too. I calm the storms; I'm with you in the storms. I'm the umbrella. I'm the cover." So, now he's the food, the water, and the shelter, all of the things we need as human beings to physically survive, but he's those things for us spiritually.

49 "Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever." That's why we took communion last week. Well, some of us took communion. Some of you were freaking out about the Coronavirus and wouldn't dip your hands in the breadbasket, but most of us took communion last week. **"This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."**

And then John 10... This is such great hope right here. Later on in John 10, he says this, **28 "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."** This is a coco bean. I have a seven-year-old and a five-year-old. No matter how hard they've tried, if I have put this coco bean in my hand and I grip it tightly, my seven-year-old and five-year-old kids are not going to get this out of my hand. Now let me give you a bigger illustration. God is infinitely stronger and more powerful than any enemy can ever be. And when it says, "...they will not snatch them out of my hand," don't be discouraged, derailed or pushed off by the enemy when he tries to make you think you're not good enough, you don't have purpose, you can't do anything in your life. The enemy cannot snatch you out of the Father's hand. He secures eternal life.

29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one... Not the devil, not the enemy, not your boss, no one. **"...can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."**

Ted Cunningham: Yeah, and the very first question we want you to answer today is have you been born again? And have you placed faith alone in Christ alone? Let me see the hands of all of you who have been in the room when someone draws their final breath. You've watched someone take their final breath. It's probably been three or four times that I've been in the room when someone takes their last breath. It's a moment where when life leaves that person... It's very important to understand, as we talk about life, follower of Jesus, eternity starts for you the day you become a Christian. You may close your eyes in death upon this earth, but you open them, and it's a blink, and you are with the Lord.

I've been in the room when the person takes their final breath... a lot of people in this service raised their hand compared to 8:30. Everything about life changes in that moment. You're not hungry. I'm not hungry at that moment. It's actually one of the things you do when you minister to someone who loses a loved one. You remind them to eat that day. It's because they don't have an appetite. There's no hunger, there's no drive for their business, no drive to get stuff done. If they had a list of errands that week, it doesn't matter. They don't need stuff, they don't need to get things done. At the beginning, we said life is precious, life is short. Everything about life comes into full view. Every person I've been in the room with then they take their last breath has been a believer. I've never been in the room with someone who wasn't a believer taking their last breath. I've been close. I've had people from this church who have asked me to go visit their dad or visit their mom or a loved one that doesn't know the Lord. They are in hospice; it's at the end. So, I've been in the room a couple of days before someone takes their last breath.

I remember one lady in our church, years ago, said, "My dad only has a few days left; would you come and visit him?" Again, those are the moments where everything should stop for us. You get that phone call... I hear people often say do I go...? You drop everything. That's what you do when were talking about life.

I went into the room and there were probably 15 – 17 family members gathered around the bed. There were a lot of emotions, a lot of crying, obviously. I talked for a couple of minutes to the daughter and then I invited the family. I said, "Hey, I'm going to pray with your dad, with your grandpa, with your husband and I want to invite you all to stay and join me, but if you feel you need to step out, I understand that too if you don't want to be a part of that."

Every single person stepped out of the room. Nobody stayed. I could just feel it. I got down and I whispered as I've done several times. I hope you do this as well. I whispered in his ear, I shared the gospel with him maybe for the first time, maybe he's heard it before, but I know it's probably for the last time. I'll never forget this guy sitting there as I'm sharing the gospel... This was probably 15 years ago, but I remember it like it was yesterday because the whole time I'm sharing, he's just sitting there growling and shaking his head. I don't know if he's with me or if he's shrugging me off or what, but I got strong and I said, "This is it. Any breath could be your last."

As we talk about Jesus' life... And many of you are going to stop by the grass wall out there and take a picture of your family – last week it said Jesus is God and this week it says Jesus is life – that you wouldn't wait until your final breath because this we know, you don't know when that is, that you would settle that now. Are you born again? Do you know the Lord?

For those of you who know and you say, "I am a follower of Christ," for today to be a day for you to be reminded that yes, you're created by him, but you are also created for him. Are you living your life on purpose? Are you seeking the next shiny spoon? We love grasping for the next bright thing to propel our career or our 401ks. Don't get too worked up over those right now. Everything is grasping and all this talk about Coronavirus and life and everything. Right now is the time you should be processing this, not in the end. Today, making the decision that Jesus is going to be your life.

Adam Donyes: God, we come before you this morning in deep gratitude that you are the author and giver of life. We pray for hearts in this room that may not know you that their hearts would be pricked to enter into that abundant and full life, that they would join with our prayer team and have those discussions.

We pray that this church – it's leadership, it's body – would be full of life to those in Stone and Taney Counties, Lord. We pray that our life would reflect the radiant glory of you, Lord. And may we seek you as we find the purpose of life that you've given us and more than just existing.

May you be with us, may you be with our words and our actions as we glorify you throughout this week. It's in the mighty and matchless name of Jesus we pray, and all God's people said... Amen.