

TRIUMPHANT LIVING
Taught by Tom Hansz
“God’s Glory and Our Role in it”
December 27, 2013

We thank You, Father, that through the Word we know that You are with us. Your Holy Spirit is here among us and that You have only the best in store for us. You teach us, You lead us, You correct us, You bring us into the light of not only salvation but into the Kingdom to come and the glory that we will share with Your Son Jesus someday. We ask You to be with us now in this moment, show us how we can apply Your Word better to our lives and that we leave here more knowledgeable and more equipped to be Your servants here in this world, and we thank You in the precious name of our Savior, the author and finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ. Amen.

One of the things we were talking about at lunch with Bruce is this Christmas season is so schmaltzy and it is so over-sentimentalized and we have these little songs about this beautiful little baby in manger and the glory around Him and that is why I started off with the statement, “What is so glorious about a carpenter helping his wife have a baby in a stinking stable. If you have been around horses or farms and you know how bad a stable or a barn can be, think of what it was like 2,000 years ago. That would be a palace compared to what in was 2,000 years ago...really raunchy, dirty, unclean, filthy space, and this young girl is pushing out a baby and it is an act of glory for God, which tells me that as we look at Christmas and we look at things in the Word and we look at being Christian, we [UNCLEAR] this emotion and extra meaning that isn’t there. We forget what the true meaning is and what was actually happening.

Don?

DON: *I was thinking as I had a wonderful Christmas and I really did but I remember the Wednesday before [UNCLEAR] thinking there are many people in the world now...what we are celebrating could cost them their lives. It could cost them everything or suffering incredible torture for what we are so happy about and celebrating at this time of year.*

Yes. It’s amazing when you look at some of the churches in the middle east and in Egypt, we have seen a lot of that on television, and now recently in Iraq and Syria where churches are being bombed, people being killed, just dragged out of their homes and murdered; and yet Christianity was there before Islam was. There are people whose families go all the way back as far as they can remember; and then it became an Islamic area. It is a matter of what is this war that is going on that we see so little of and we’re so hardly involved in...

DON: *Excuse me, Tom. One more thing. I think that we have to remember...you would think that with all the music that has been played over the past few days over the radio and a lot of stations played the hymns of Christmas...you would think that the whole world is flocking after Christ and [UNCLEAR] and Jesus is hated. He was then and He is now.*

Yes, and that all plays in to the glorification of God and that is what I think is interesting about the truth in the spiritual world vs. truth in the physical world. What Don was telling us last week...I’ll just paraphrase some of these things: God’s glory is really His attributes, His essence, it’s everything about Him and in Psalm 96 the Psalmist says, “O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord all the earth, sing to the Lord, bless His name

and tell of His salvation from day to day, declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works to all His people.” We think time and time again in the Old Testament that the Lord is telling Moses or Joshua or whoever is leading Israel at that time, remember these things and tell them to your children and your children’s children; remember what I have done. God’s glory is shown through the things that He does to honor Him, not to honor us but to perpetuate His kingdom, not necessarily to take care of us. And yet as Jesus said, “I do not seek my own glory but I seek the glory of the One who sent me.” Again, going back to what Don was saying as he was teaching last week, the idea hit me that our glory is nothing more than a mirror of God’s glory. Whatever God can do through us that people see is not to our credit but to God’s credit and to God be the glory.

I want to ask in terms of glory how does that work with me? I was in a business meeting a few months ago sharing with these Christian businessmen and somebody asked this one guy, “What is the main purpose of your business?” And the guy said, “Our main purpose is to glorify God.” Then someone asked him, “How do you do that?” And he said, “Umm, umm, well, we’re good Christians.” He didn’t know; he knows he is to glorify God but he didn’t know what that is about. It’s like when you see people say, “Oh praise the Lord.” OK, praise the Lord...”Well, praise the Lord.” No, praise the Lord. “Praise the Lord” is not saying, “Praise the Lord.” Praise the Lord is an admonition to go and talk about how great He is, all the wonderful things He has done, how He is healing Bruce’s back, how he is taking some of us around the world to minister to other people, or how he is saving businesses, how He is helping husbands survive when their wife dies. We have seen this happen in our group and we should be telling how great He is as He ministers to us. Praise the Lord. Not just that He took Israel out of Egypt and created a nation, but what is he doing with us in our church. Praise the Lord. Share the great things He has done. We forget about that. Glory tends to be one of those catch alls, yes it feels good but what does it really do for us in terms of praising God.

You know the West Minister Shorter Catechism says, what is the chief end of man; and this is a great answer... man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. How about the second question: what rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him. The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him. But if you’re like me, I would say, “Help me. Give me a couple steps that I can do that will help me glorify God in my life and not just broad statements.” But when you are making a large creed such as the West Minister Shorter Catechism, you can only say large, broad things. This is not an indictment against that it is just the fact that it shows us where to go and we go into the Word of God. You say, “What can I do?” And you say, “I made a large donation through the Christmas fund and I was able to give a really good check, so that’s glory...a big check.”

I like what Bruce says: that is a good/bad work. Yes, it’s good but whom does it glorify? It glorifies me and what is our purpose? To glorify God, so the idea that whatever I do...if it shows Christ doing it and it the honor goes back to Him, then that is a good/good work and not get caught up with, “How do I get the glory...how do I get the accolades.” Being humans, we all strive for that; be honest with yourself. Many times if you are doing something good at work, you really like to be told, “Hey, you’re doing a good job” and be pointed out as a great person, that is a good employee. But at the same time, what is it that we are doing for the Lord and how do we allow Him to rule our lives.

As we look at it, I want to make sure that we realize that you’re glorifying God it is on a personal basis. It is you and the Lord, it is personal but not of you because as I said you are a mirror. Let’s look at 1st Corinthians 10:31. “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” What we are talking about there is not just in response to do I eat this, or do I drink this; and that is what he is talking about in 1st

Corinthians is that system that is against legalism. If you are going to be a good Christian you have to eat these foods and you cannot eat these foods; or if you are a good Christian you cannot drink this but you have to abstain from that and so forth. It doesn't matter. Whatever you do, do to the glory of God; and if you decide not to drink something if only that you are doing it to glorify God; so If you are in the presence of somebody who doesn't like to drink coffee, for instance, don't serve them coffee and don't drink coffee if that is going to cause him to sin by forcing him to drink coffee.

The idea is that you are at liberty and you have everything because the law is gone. The law is fulfilled and now we need to love the Lord thy God with all our heart, with all our might, with all thy strength, and to love our neighbor as our self. If you keep those two commandments, everything falls in line. We have the Scriptures then that help us understand how to apply it to certain situations. But many times we think who gets the credit for all this good work and so forth? Who has Philippians 1:15-18?

“Some in deed, preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will; the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition but not sincerity but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in that I rejoice.”

That is amazing. This is Paul in his first imprisonment in Rome writing to his brothers and sisters in Philippi and he is saying, part of the problems he is having in Rome is that there are some bad preachers out there that are preaching the gospel for their own benefit. Either because they don't like him and they want more prominence than him or they are doing it for money. But he says, that is not what we're doing. I'm preaching the gospel out of truth and as of an apostle of Jesus Christ; but these other guys are going off the deep end and they are preaching the gospel but so what? I don't care; it is not that I get credit but it is the fact that the gospel is preached. And that is the main thing.

So he doesn't care about who gets the credit and it doesn't have to come back to him, as long as Christ is preached. So don't worry about the legalistic problems, just give it your all.

Yes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Do you remember a few weeks ago when Bishop Rodgers was teaching and he told the story of a friend of his and he went to all the different churches or conferences to hear people present the gospel? From Bishop Rodgers' perspective they were really well thought out and strong, and his friend didn't get it...he might have enjoyed it but it really didn't hit home. Then one time he is with Bishop Rodgers and Bishop Rodgers thinks this preacher, teacher, whatever, missed the point and really did not do a good job? Yet his friend got it and came to know Christ. I remember the days when the grandfather of evangelism sitting behind me here, Ron [UNCLEAR] {LAUGHTER}. You know Ron, we would go out in the neighborhood with evangelism explosion and then we would give reports. Some people would come in and they would say, "I really blew it tonight...I put the second part first and the third part fourth and all this...but the man came to know Christ...he accepted Christ and he prayed the prayer. It was like...I always get reminded of that because a good friend of mine is starting to open up to Christ and wants to know more. So she has been going to Orchard Hill. Well, to me Orchard Hill has an unbelievable ministry but it is like going to the [UNCLEAR] Center or Heinz Hall...I don't get it when I go there, but she does. And I think what are you fighting that for*

because God is bigger than me and it is not my theology or somebody else's theology that is going to save somebody but it is Christ that is going to save them.

Yes, that is what we have to keep in mind. It is not you and other people but it is you and the Lord Jesus Christ and that is the relationship you have to keep in mind, "Am I glorifying God?" Yes, me and Jesus. And it might not fit in someone else's way of thinking or their life. It is what Bruce talks about this one church he knows of where their attendance is 50 people. He thinks the Word is more preached there in truth and the congregation is more worthily praising God, than the church of 2,000 people; it does not have to be by numbers.

So the first thing to keep in mind about how do I glorify God is to realize it is not about you on the outside but it is between you and the Lord and what He is doing; and you might not understand the glory that is being given at the time until it is revealed afterward, or something like your example.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Well I can't think that in the day that Christ was born, it wasn't like big news. I mean the shepherds saw something remarkable and Mary and Joseph might have thought something remarkable was going on but it wasn't until later...even the apostles didn't really get who Christ was until after the ascension...*

Yes?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *There were people who traveled for months in caravans because they had seen [UNCLEAR] and I don't think there were three wise men, I know there were three gifts...[UNCLEAR] because they went through hostile country with precious gifts and it took months to get there. Then they went to Herod and he said, "Oh, I want to find the Christ child..." and they knew what he wanted to do.*

Yes, it took great effort and expense to get from the Babylonian era over to the little town outside of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and yet there is an enemy right there. Give me the information so I can wipe him out...I don't won't anyone taking my throne, not realizing it was a throne he has no idea about...it's amazing.

The glory then is what God is doing and all we can do is either be ready to assist when something happens and we can respond to it or we can fight it. Praise God and pray that we are always there to respond aggressively and not necessarily to be a bystander.

Yes, Brian?

BRIAN: *I'm probably the only one guilty of this but I get so wrapped around what is truth, what is the correct doctrine and so much time of trying to be pure and to honor Christ in that way; but sometimes it can be this pitfalls that....oh, you're not doing it right and right here Paul is saying, "Hey as long as the gospel is preached, God can use that for His glory." Sometimes we just need to relax a little bit.*

Yes, relax, and know that it is not about me.

Yes, Stanley?

STANLEY: *I was told in my early years of becoming a Christian, my pastor [UNCLEAR] said Stanley "keep it simple and let me [UNCLEAR] remember. It is all this, Stanley, this is what it is" and I couldn't understand*

what did he mean by all this. He said, "Stanley, this is God sending down His grace and mercy and this is you sending up your praise and glory. And that is all it is, Stanley, just keep it simple."

Yes, because the victory is won. We don't have to worry about is God going to forgive me of my sins. The good news is He has forgiven you your sins. Jesus' blood paid for that so now that I know my sins are forgiven and I can look to my Father and know that He looks at me as a son, I can get on with life through Him, through Christ and not on my own. I don't have to worry about this but I need to grow in sanctification. I've been redeemed and now I need to mature, I need to grow. I need to be in the Word so the Word is more in my life and I can mature in the Word and in what He wants to do and then the gifts that He gives me to do. But I don't have to worry about if I'm doing good stuff or bad stuff. Relax. That is a good analogy.

The second step I would say in knowing how to participate in showing God's glory is to realize your sin and to confess that, yes, your sins have been forgiven but God wants you to know that in your body and where you are in your old self, how far from Him you are and to acknowledge that I need to be more like Christ.

One example I wanted to point out is the thief on the cross because in Luke...I beg your pardon as I put down Luke 23:43-39...well that is the reverse version. It should be Luke 23:39-43. But the thief looks at Christ and the other thief is saying that if He is the son of God, get down off the cross and save Yourself, and he says, "Wait a minute, don't you know who you are talking to?" One of the criminals who was hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save Yourself and us?" But the other rebuked saying, "Do you not fear God since you are under the same sentence in condemnation? And we, in deed, justly for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." And then he says, "Jesus remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus says to him, "Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

The last thing he probably did on earth was to confess the fact that he is a sinner and we do that formally in some church services where we have a group confession that we all repeat...not that in itself is a confession but it is like the Lord's Prayer, it is there to remind us how far we are from the goal and that we need to confess the sins that God shows us in our life and that we can mature and go on from there. Confession really means that we literally agree with God. It is not poor me, beat me, beat me, I'm a bad sinner but it is a matter of, "God I know you know how far I am and now I see a part of it and I agree with you...I'm missing the boat here. Thank you for your forgiveness." Many churches have a thing at the end of a formal confession and talk about God please grant us forgiveness for our sins and so forth. I think it is the Lutheran Church that says after a confession, "God has forgiven us." Think about that. Your sins are forgiven. Your slate is clean. All you need to do is keep thinking "How do I mature, how have I improved through the grace of God and how I can show I understand how God sees me and I appreciate the fact that He has forgiven me of my sins. I've done this thing, I'm not doing it any more. Thank you for forgiving me." That is an amazing thing.

That glorifies God. But no one knows about it. Right...no one has to know about it. When you glorify God, it is between you and the Lord.

What would be the third thing we could do? We could trust Him. It is like the little card we have...Think, Act, Feel...and not Feel, Act, Think. The idea is that we all start off at the feel...something happens and we have an emotion "I'm going to hit him or I'll get him off the road, or boy I would like to do..." but go right from that emotion to wait a minute, think about what is happening, think first of all and what do you have to think about? What is the truth that God has set down for us? What does God want me to do? Where am I in relationship to God? Think about true fact and then when you base your actions on fact, then you can act and that will result in

a feeling, promptly that you rejoice. It does not have to be you are a winner, it has to do with you are a forgiven sinner and God has it all worked out for you. You just need to hang in there with Him.

The best example is that there are these three guys Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, better known as Meshack, Shadrach and Abed-nego. I love it, they are so convinced and so solid with God. “Do what you want Nebuchadnezzar, it is not going to bother us.” Shadrach, Meshack and Abed-nego answered and said to Nebuchadnezzar, “We have no need to answer you in this matter” in other words to get down on our knees and acknowledge you in front of this idol, “if this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king, but if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” What a solid faith these guys had. Do what you want, it doesn’t matter...I know how I am in relationship to the Lord God.

We need to trust Him. Also, I think that is why Abraham is the father of our faith in that the trust that he had in God; not only in everything he did to go from Ur to Chaldea over to the Holy Land and so forth, but almost in everything he did, he trusted what God had said. That is why I like to read this part from Romans. It talks about Abraham and “in hope he believed against hope...” He is an old man, he is not going to have any kids; his wife is an old woman, she is out of the era in her life of where she can have babies. It is impossible, right? No, no. That is why he such a great father of our faith. “In hope he believed against hope that he should become the father of many nations as he had been told, so shall your offspring be. He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body which was as good as dead, since he was about 100 years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb; no unbelief made him waiver concerning of the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God; fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised. That is why his faith was counted to him as righteousness, but the words it was counted to him, were not written for his sake alone, but for ours as well. It will be counted to us who believe in Him, who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord.”

There is so much today of people saying, “Yes, there was a Jesus, we’ll give you that...but all the stuff in the Bible has been changed over history and time...it is not really true. Jesus died and your are honoring a dead guy.” But He is alive and He did rise from the dead.

Don?

DON: *Yes, I wanted to go back to what you said a couple of minutes ago when you were giving the example of the three men in the fiery furnace and they said, “God is able to deliver us but even if not, we won’t serve the idol.” I heard the other day on a talk show a prominent well-known preacher and you would know his name if I said it, he suffered a personal tragedy in his life this year, he said, “We know that wasn’t God’s will.” And I thought baloney; not that God was happy about it, of course, but it would not have happened if it wasn’t God’s will. And I think sometimes....you are talking about the glory of God and Peter in 1st Peter says, “It may be the will of God that you suffer.” You can glorify God, he says, in that suffering. It’s like these three men in the fiery furnace...God did deliver them but they didn’t know that was going to happen and they said, “Even if not, we are going to obey God and trust Him.” And that is what you have been saying...to trust Him.*

Good point.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Romans 8.28: “And we know that all things work together for the good of them that love God and are called according to His purpose.”*

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *And we know what that purpose is. The purpose is for us to be like Jesus Christ....without Christ in our hearts we cannot do anything.*

Yes, it is good/bad works, We are mirrors of Jesus Christ on earth for others to see.

BILL: *It is interesting that you mentioned Abraham and his faith. Abraham did not trust God in the beginning when this whole thing about him being dead physically because he still had sex with her servant Hagar, and if it all depends on us or any part of it depends on us, no good can come of it.*

We will sin as long as we're here on earth. We pray to God that we will sin less than we ordinarily would and that His Grace is moving our lives more than our sinful desires and our body will want; but that is what we tend to do. Yes, he sinned; Sarah sinned and they did many stupid things. That is what I love about the great characters of the Bible. You hear how great they were in Sunday school and then you grow up and begin to read the Bible and you think this person is a jerk. What is going on here? But he is used by God to show God's glory and he becomes somebody that he could not be on his own. Praise God.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Throughout the Bible, everyone of them fell short. Everyone from Noah to Abraham to David to Solomon. They all fell short, that is when God realized we couldn't do it, and the only one who can do it is Jesus. That is why Jesus was sent because none of us is able to live up to what God expected and the only way for us to be harmony with Him is through His Son.*

Everyone fell short except one and that is Jesus Christ. What is interesting too is that all the stuff that a Christian has to go through are all the things that Christ was confronted with and was demeaning to Him or roadblocks put in His way and so forth, was not done by God but God allowed them to happen. It is like Job. God did not do all that bad stuff to Job but He allowed it to happen. And you think how bad the devil is...he is so bad...not only did he take all his possessions, all his kids, all his help, but he didn't take his wife. {MUCH LAUGHTER}. He didn't take his wife, she stayed around.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *I thought He did take his wife?*

No, no. She kept telling him to curse God and die.

We want to glorify God. How can I glorify God? (1) Realize that it is personal between you and Him. (2) Be aware of your sin and confess. (3) Trust Him as you go on. (4) Be fruitful in the things you do. Also, I think you balance that...be fruitful in **how** you do things.

I'll give you an example. When I was in Boy Scout Camp as a young kid and everybody had to take turns at mess. I was a small kid so I always got the worst things, and my job was that I had to scrape all the food off the trays. That made me sick and I just said, "I'm not doing this stuff any more." I ran off and I was going to hide from the counselors. I hate to clean up after people. Fortunately, I have a good wife who cleaned up after our kids all the time; what a mess it would be if it had depended on me. I just hate to do that. And one day, I'm at a church function and there is no body to clean up the kitchen afterward...a big spaghetti dinner...what a mess. All of a sudden, I just said, "I can do that." And that is when I realized God has given me the gift of helps. I can come in and help out anytime because it just overtook whatever I felt and this is a simple little example but I think God gives us gifts; some preach, some teach, some administer, some lead, some give hospitality, some are just helpers. I always praise God that I'm always available to pitch in; whether I like it or not doesn't

matter. I always feel good after I do it. So it is a matter of not only the things you do but are you doing it through the Holy Spirit and the gifts God has given you. Everybody has at least one, we know that from Scripture. Is everyone exercising their gift or gifts? Some give, some teach, whatever we do. I think that glorifies God in that He gives you abilities that you do not have on your own because it is Spirit driven, Spirit led.

I've built many churches in the past and I'm always amazed at the number of churches that are governed and directed by the successful businessmen of the parish and who all is on the Board or Church Counsel or the Board of Elders. It is the guys that have the biggest incomes and are most prominent in society. You don't find many janitors on that Board. [UNCLEAR] God can give a janitor great gifts of administration. That is not His worldly task but it is a divinely imbued task. I think that is what I get to see sometimes then I'll come to a church and I look at the people on this Board and I think, "Wow, this is not the typical Board" and yet it is such a joy working with them because everybody is using their gifts. We just don't think about that enough and we don't put that into practice.

We are fruitful, we do our good works in the same way as Jesus says in Matthew 5:16: "In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." What are they looking at, you? No. They are looking at the light inside you. As I said before you are a mirror reflecting the glory of God in what you are doing. That is what people see in that work you are doing and that glorifies God.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *An example of what you just said...had many light bulbs hanging around here. I don't really care if it is Sylvania, GE, or made in [UNCLEAR]. But the power that makes those shine is the power of God in us. Those light bulbs are simply the obedience to what they were designed to do. So there is the light. Where is the power? Obedience to the Holy Spirit [UNCLEAR] then let His light shine through you. And everyone of these lights that shine...did they choose to be in there?*

Yes, that's right. Amen. So not only are your good works...those things that God has given you...but it is how you do it as well with the fruit of the Spirit. That is the power you are talking about. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, against such things there is no law. So again, it is God working through you that glorifies Him.

Now the 5th thing we can do is to give God all the credit and thanksgiving. I love the Psalm that many churches will sing as part of the Psalter, "O come let us sing unto the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a great God and a Great King above all gods. In His hands are the depths of the earth, the heights of the mountains are His also. The sea is His and He made it, His hands formed the dry land. O come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." The sheep of His hand. We are right there with the Lord. He has us, He chose us, and He wants to use us for His glory, not for ours.

As we wind up, I'm running out of time. The last thing you need to do to glorify God is to communicate with Him. Prayer. Prayer, as Jesus said you need to go to your closet and be alone with God, but that does not mean that is the only time you can pray. You're with Him all the time. We just have Him right here.

Thank you O God for teaching us, for helping us, for inspiring us, directing us, for being our Lord, and giving us these fruits of the Spirit that we have and that you will continue to mature our fruits of patience, long suffering, joy, peace, etc.

So as we look at His faithfulness Jesus says, “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask in Me, anything in My name, I will do it.” What are we asking for? To heal so-and-so. Well maybe that is not what God wants but in the illness, that the person is going through God will be glorified. Maybe that person will come to a better relationship with the Lord. It is hard especially when you see people on the deathbed and think how do you pray for that person? Well, maybe that person is OK, it is the other people that experience the death but the Lord is concerned about them too. However, He is working; we might not know but communicate, talk to Him, share your thoughts and your concerns, ask Him to direct you and ask Him to give you the awareness of His presence on a continual basis. He never leaves you, He’ll never forsake you, He is always there and He wants the best for you because the best for you glorifies Him.

Any last questions?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *What would you say to someone...like after you cleaned up after the spaghetti dinner and they ask, “Tom, why did you do that?” [UNCLEAR]*

Fortunately, no one has asked me. But I would just say that God was gracious to me in letting me get in there and help. It was something that I really wanted to do. As we go down the road of life, I’m sure there are many small things that have happened to us that we are not even aware of what is going on that God is using us to His glory. Just phenomenal.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *God seems to grow us the most when we do things that aren’t comfortable.*

Yes, that is a good point. God grows us the most when we do things for Him that are not comfortable. So our confidence is in Him, not in ourselves.

Thank you all for being here this morning. Now we know who the real tough guys are in this thing. {LAUGHTER}. Let’s just close with Jude 24; I love this doxology.

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling and present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy, to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord before all ages, now and forever more. Amen. God’s blessings to you guys. Thank you.