



Sermon – 09/18/2022
Dean Encera

Verses Covered This Week

Luke 18:9 - 14

Good morning. It is great to be at Central. My name is Dean. I'm the pastor of City Church in Tallahassee, Florida. And I am a very big Miami Hurricane fan. So, I have always heard about Texas hospitality and then my team comes here and doesn't score a touchdown. So, I'm feeling some inconsistencies. But it's great to be here, Philip Bethancourt, your pastor is a great friend of mine and it's a real treat to get a chance to be a part of the church that loves for the day. And I'm excited for the Steak Out tonight. The college students after the service. There's a lot of great things happening here. And I believe that this town, a college town where so many people come here from across the state, from across the country, they actually come to you. What an opportunity. Uh for a church has been faithful in this community for a long time to continue having very effective ministry and proclaiming the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ to all those who come this way. What an opportunity to send people out, trained and equipped here to take Gospel to the ends of the earth. I believe in what's happening here. I'm really thankful to be a part of it. I want to pray for us and then we'll jump in. We're going to be in Luke chapter 18 this morning where we talk about what I believe is the most common religious belief in America.

Let's pray together.

Father, are we thankful for Your word? We're thankful for this church and all that You're doing here. I'm just thankful to be a part of it for a short time and to watch from a distance, the awesome things that are happening here. We ask that even greater days of ministry can be ahead for Central. I ask that You speak through me this morning, that You keep the enemy out of this place, out of the city. That You would use all the churches in this community as they gather today with my church back home and that we glorify You and always say and do. We ask this all in the name of Jesus. Amen.

So, I have no data to back this up, which anyone in college town, any professors are like, what? But I have no data to back this up, but I'm convinced the most dominant, prominent, believed, we say religious belief practiced, thought process, worldview, all the above in the United States today, is that good people go to heaven. It's not atheism. It's not agnosticism. It's not Islam.

It's not Buddhism. It's not even what I would call biblical Christianity. It's that good people go to heaven. At every funeral I've ever been to, what are we told? We're just so thankful right now that Uncle Bill's fishing at that big bass lake in the sky. You know, we just know that Bobby's playing those eighteen holes in heaven with Moses right now. Not sure why Moses will be considered a golfer but you know, you never know. We're just so thankful that grandma and grandpa are reunited again. And the reason for believing that oftentimes is simply because grandma was an awesome person or because uncle Bill was just the best. Shirt off his back kind of guy. Salt of the Earth, as the old saying goes. How many people really do believe simply that good people go to heaven and that's basically their religious belief system? And here's what's so complicated about that. Everyone today sees himself as a good person. Have you noticed that? Every person I know thinks they're good. At least I'm a good person. I'm sincere. And here's what's really complicated. They're right. They are really good people. They are really sincere. They do actually mean well. They really are the salt of the earth. They really are the kind of person you trust to babysit your kids. They really are a good boss, a good employee, a great mom, a volunteer little league baseball coach. They really actually are good people by the standards of this world. But God does not judge us according to the standards of this world. The standard He uses to judge us is Himself. And He is perfectly holy and perfectly good and perfectly righteous. And even one sin that we commit cannot go unpunished because we violated God's law. We've rebelled against our Creator. But something in us reverts back and defaults back to this idea that simply if I'm a good person and I'm sincere, then I'm going to go to this place called heaven one day when I die. We don't know what the point of heaven is. Like, how do you really get there? Who's there? Where is it? What is it? Why do you go? All we know is he's in a better place. She's in a better place. And the reason is simply because they had good values and good morals.

But for us, we must understand this is not a new belief system. Maybe common today but it actually goes back over 2,000 years. Luke chapter 18. He, referring to Jesus, also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous. They believed in their own goodness. That they possessed it themselves on their own. And I think this would be the logical conclusion to that and look down on everyone else. Because, you know, if you're the standard of what it means to be good, if you're really righteous, those who aren't measuring up to you, you probably have a little judgmental tilt or bent towards. And then, Jesus tells the story to that crowd. It says, two men went up to the temple to pray. So, there's two people going to the religious center of their time to participate in religious activities. This was right and prescribed and good. One, a Pharisee. Now, often times, we think of Pharisees, what comes to mind is simply legalism. Just kind of follow the rules, you know, judge others who don't. That's certainly part of it but there's so much more than that. The Pharisees actually, their devotion could be greatly admired. These people who did keep the rules, who did go to the temple like they were supposed to. History tells us that a Pharisee would have the first five books of the Bible memorized. The first five books of the Bible memorized? I struggle memorizing, Jesus wept. And they had the first, these are devoted people to their religion. Think varsity-level religious people. I call it the Tom Brady of what it meant to be religious. Just elite status of what it means to be the best. So, he like he was supposed to went to the temple to pray. And the other a tax collector. Now, think the exact opposite here. This is not someone who simply would have worked for the IRS in the United States in 2022 or someone who just worked for the state or work for the local, you know, tax collector in your community. These are people who are very much frowned upon as the sinners of the sinners. Because they would prey on people.

They would often overcharge the poor and take the money for themselves and put it in their pocket. They were kind of a reverse Robin Hood. Rather than rob the rich to help the poor, they would rob the poor and put it in your own pocket. You couldn't really do anything about it. I think my mic went off for a second. But I went to yell practice Friday night. So I'm good. But they were viewed as those who had sold out. A lot of them were Jews who had given in to Rome, and now they were praying on their own people. So, you have varsity-level religious person and then you have someone who'd been viewed in that society as the sinners of the sinful. And probably any culture at any time would frown upon that and go, "Wait, you prey on poor people and pocket the money for yourself?" That'd be a universal frowning upon this.

So, we see this. The Pharisee was standing and praying like this about himself. "God, I thank You that I'm not like other people." Cuz those who believe they're good, as long as they're measuring up to whatever good looks like in suburban College Station, Bryan, Bryan/College Station, however you say it, a suburban area. As long as you're kind of keeping up with the moral and value, you know, kind of Jones', then you feel pretty good about yourself. So, he's saying, "God, I thank You, that I measure up, that I'm not like all those in this town, you know, who are sinful. I'm not greedy. I'm not unrighteous. I'm not adulterers." Then it gets real specific. Because when in doubt, you can hopefully always find someone a little worse than you, right? Like a little bit worse than you, quit looking the person next to you and elbowing them. That's not right. But here he gets real specific. He says, or even this tax collector over here. Because we know about him. "God, I thank you. I'm not like everybody else that's immoral and doesn't have the values that I have in this community." But let's get real specific for a second. Well, let's have an actual literal example. I thank you I'm not like him. I fast twice a week and I give a tenth of everything I get. This guy steals money. He overcharges people. Me, I give money away. I fast twice a week. This guy indulges himself with the secular leaders of our day. I'm not greedy, he said earlier. This guy, greed defines him. Then we see the strong contrast in verse 13. That small word but; B-U-T. Which is often a powerful word in the Bible. We see in John 10:10, the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly. The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is everlasting life in Christ Jesus our Lord. That small little work can often really drive home a point for us in contrast. He says, but the tax collector. So, he's heard about the Pharisee, heard all that he was saying about himself. Would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." In other words, everything the Pharisee is saying about me is true. So, I'm not going to pull the judgmental card. I'm not going to say, well, you're not perfect either or what about this one time or none of us is perfect. I'm trying harder. You don't know about my past. Who are you to say this, cuz of these five things I know about you that are sinful. He says, God, I'm everything that that Pharisee is not. So, I'm not going to try to give You any kind of resume of my religious duties. I'm not going to try to have more good deeds to cancel out my bad deeds. That's like going to Whataburger and thinking a diet coke cancels out your double cheeseburger. That's how we think often times. Enough good deeds cancel out my bad deeds and I'm okay. He didn't attempt any of those things. He said there's only one thing I can think to do in this moment. And that's ask You for mercy. It's probably a long shot. I'm not even standing close to the temple. I'm not even sure how all this actually works. But God, I am a sinner before You and I'm not going to try to do anything because I have no leg to stand on. Will You just have mercy on me? Will you forgive me? And here's what's so incredible. God answers his prayer. He answers his prayer. Look at what it says in verse 14. I tell you, this one went down to his house justified. And not just this

one, rather than the other. He draws a line in the sand, and says, this one, not that one. This one went down to his house justified, meaning forgiven, declared not guilty of his sins. While the other one, was still not right with God even though he completely thought he was. That's where you live. How many people are Pharisees when it comes to how they view their relationship with God? And by Pharisees, I do not mean legalistic. I don't mean judgmental like we often think about Pharisees. I mean, people that simply trust in their own righteousness. There's hardly anyone in your community, I guarantee you, that doesn't see themselves as a good person. And most people, I know college has its own different dynamic, but most people are not atheist and they're not agnostics. Look at the data. Most people in this community are not agnostics. They are not atheists. Same in my community. Most people in this community are not Buddhist. They're not Muslim. They're not Hindu. They're not another one of the world's religions. Same in my community. But would you say that most people in this community are Christians? Actually know Jesus, have been declared righteous, forgiven of their sins, have trusted in Christ. I don't think that's the truth either. I would say most people are saying, "God I thank You that I'm good. And I thank You that I'm fine. I worry about it every now and then but I'll do some good deeds. I can't stop my bad deeds. I'll volunteer a little bit. I'll read a self-help book so I don't feel guilty anymore." And here's this tax collector. And the reality is for everyone in this room who claims the name of Jesus Christ. You believe that Jesus died in your place for your sins to make you right with God. He shed His blood for you as we sang about earlier. That He rose from the grave three days later, ascended to heaven and one day is going to come back for His people, come back for His church. If anyone in this room is in that category of your belief in that, by faith and repentance, then you were the tax collector. Then you were someone who, it mean you were someone who realized your sin before God. And rather than appeal to yourself in the beginning of the chapter or beginning of the verse, who trust in themselves that they were righteous. Rather than you doing that, you appealed to someone else to be righteous for you. But it couldn't be a family member. They had their own sins that need to be forgiven. It couldn't be the greatest Christian you've ever known. They have their own sins to be forgiven for. There's only One who could be righteousness for us and it was the One who always perfectly obeyed the law and had no sin ever in Him. To then go and be the sacrifice for our sins to take on a death that we deserve to make us right with God. He says, everyone who exalts himself will be humbled. But the one who humbles himself will be exalted. And I think the greatest way we see people exalt themselves today is not, look at my truck, look at my house, look at my seats, look at, you know, at the stadium. Like, look at how great my kids. It's this kind of subtle, "We're good. We are good people. We are fine on our own." So, what I'm telling you this morning is, there is this massive mission field of Pharisees. Again, don't think legalism, don't think judgmentalism, think trust in themselves that they were righteous. All around you outside of these doors. So, oftentimes, we feel in the south or in the southwest or in, I guess Texas' own category. In Texas, you know, that that everybody's a Christian. And the reality is everyone, not everyone. Most people simply are not atheists. So, they think they're Christians as a result of that.

There's a few things today that I think are kind of fueling this Phariseical idea of your own righteousness. And the first one is belief. Belief. That sounds strange. This belief is a wonderful thing but most people, are you a Christian? Yeah, what makes you a Christian? Well, I believe in God. I believe in God. But the question is, who is that god they believe in? Oftentimes, it's a lowercase G god. It's kind of the big guy upstairs, divine Santa, glorified grandpa figure, like the force from Star Wars. Just the kind of a moral compass kind of god

rather than the actual God of the Scriptures who has revealed Himself to us and told us exactly who He is. And we realize who He is and we become the tax collector and see our need to be forgiven by Him in order to be in His presence. Oftentimes, a generic belief gets in the way of someone seeing their need for Jesus because they define a Christian simply by the fact of what they're not. Not atheist, not agnostics, not Jewish. Therefore, I'm a Christian. I don't think I'm the judge of who's a Christian, who's not, nor do I want to be. But the Scriptures are. And if your belief does not need, does not lead to you seeing your need to repent of your sins and trust in Christ. The god you believe in is not the God of the Bible. James chapter 2, he says, oh you believe in God, great. Want a cookie? So does the devil. So does the devil. And the difference is the devil actually believes in the capital G God. He actually has right theology about who God is. He refuses to worship him.

The second thing back to the text is morals. Again, morals are a wonderful thing. Values are a wonderful thing. But morals and values don't forgive us of our sins. Here he is. God, I thank You. Here's what I don't do. I'm not unrighteous. I'm not an adulterer. I'm not greedy. I fast. I'm involved in the church. I give my money. Therefore, we're great. You and I are just fine. In Galatians chapter 2, I think it's one of the most haunting yet revealing Scriptures in all the Bible. Verse 21, it says, if righteousness can be attained by keeping the law, doing the things, then Jesus died for nothing. It almost sounds blasphemous to say that out loud, that Jesus died for nothing. But how many people based on their morals and their perceived values are holding up a figurative neon flashing sign that says Jesus died for nothing. That Christmas is pointless. Even though they have a nativity scene on their mantle at Christmas time. That Easter makes no sense and doesn't matter. Even though they all go to Nana's for ham and get to have dressed up in their Lilly Pulitzer dresses and take a picture on the front yard. Why are we doing these things? If this generic belief in God and my morals and values are good enough? We're saying that Jesus died for no purpose and the whole rest of the story doesn't make sense. I did a funeral of a 19-year-old college student a few years ago. And obviously, it's just obviously sad. 19-year-old boy, I mean, just awful. It was a boating, it was a boating accident. Christian family and thankfully, he was a believer himself. And I met with the family before him which is kind of customary for a pastor to sit down and kind of talk through what you want the service to be like. And they said they wanted to have some of his friends share, some friends and family, like a sister, college roommate, some buddies. And then they wanted me to come up at the end. They said, "Please be clear on people's need for Jesus. Please be clear on the Gospel." And I said, "Absolutely. I will do that." So, my job is to go last. So, every person came up that shared. They had chairs up here and they all did a really nice job. There's, his name was Heath, and they said, you know, Heath is the best roommate. He's the best brother. You know, he was he would light up the room. His smile, I'll miss forever. You know, he was the best guy I ever knew. I mean, just really saying beautiful things about him about his life. Here's what he did for me one time, telling stories. Then it was my turn to come up. I was the closer. Mariano Rivera out of the pen. And had one instruction from the family. Make sure you're clear on who Jesus is. We don't want to waste, they said, our son's death in this moment. And the room was packed. I mean, well, over 1,000 people. Because the younger you are, I mean, all of your friends are still alive, right? So, everybody's still there. And I get up there and I said, first, I want to thank, they were in their chairs, the five of you for everything that you said. That was a beautiful tribute to Heath's life. And I also want you to know that everything they said, this is me talking at the funeral, that everything they said about Heath is 100% true and accurate. But not one of those things mentioned is why he's in heaven today. He's in heaven today because he believed that

Jesus died for his sins. He trusted in Christ rather than himself for his righteousness. And then I went on to tell people in the room, the whole room, about Jesus. Do we really believe that? Do we really actually believe that when Jesus says that He is the only way, He means that salvation actually only comes through Him? If your reason for believing you are a Christian is anything other than the work of Jesus on your behalf, you might not be. And that's not me coming here trying to confuse people or question your salvation. It's just trying to make sure you actually have it in Jesus Christ. Morals can be quite the barrier. Even though morals on themselves by themselves are a good thing. Morals and values are a great thing. Morals and values do not forgive sins. Cuz they don't make up for the fact that we've already sinned against God and stand before Him guilty. That can be changed by putting your trust in Christ. The one who knew no sin, becoming sin for us. So, He endured the death penalty that we deserve. Because the Bible tells us the wages of sin is death. Which makes sense because if God really is holy and really is the Creator and really is good. What kind of God would He be? If he just went, "No deal. They meant well. I know her heart. He'll do better next time." One sin is worthy of death. We compare ourselves not to other people, We compare ourselves to God. Therefore, we take God Himself to meet the demands that we could not meet. Of perfect righteousness.

The third thing is heritage. And praise God for Christian families. Praise the Lord for those who took their kids to church every Sunday and made sure their grandkids were there. Praise God for all of that. Can the faith be passed down? Absolutely. Can it be inherited? Absolutely not. People must make a decision to follow Christ to believe in Him by faith, repent of their sins. They must make it for themselves. And I can't tell you how many people I talk to who insist their adult grandchildren are saved. Do they actually know Jesus? There's no evidence that in their lives simply because they went to church with them when they were a little kid. They prayed during dinner. They got a Bible when they were in first grade or third grade or however that tradition works. They insist on it and are missing an evangelistic opportunity. Because they are actually judging their kids' salvation, their grandchild salvation, who is now an adult by Pharisaical things. Heritage can be one of those. How many people think they're Christians just because they're part of the Smith family? The Jones family. Are you a Christian? Of course. Like we come from a Christian family. Yeah. You know, of course we are. We're, of course, we're Christians. What do you mean? Why would you even suggest otherwise? And the reason is because Nana prays a lot and really is a godly person and we see this this kind of drift happen, this leak, the sequence, it's grandparents, who are kind of were maybe greatest generation people. Follow Jesus, trust in the Lord, made church a priority. Then they're adult Boomer children. We're kind of, they were, they were cool with it but it wasn't a top priority in their life. There's just a few more important things. Get there when you can or that that kind of idea. Then, their adult children who are now in their 30s and 40s, they still claim to be Christians. They still claim a church because they go on Mother's Day because it means so much to Memaw. Yes, they show up that day and they're going to go to Christmas Eve. They're going to go to Easter. They're going to go a couple more times. They're going to make sure they're there for their, you know, nephew's baby dedication, and those type of things. That's not really a priority in their life. Everything else seems to take priority over it. And then their kids who are now in their 20s are nowhere to be found. While everyone thinking they're fine because we're a Christian family. Most likely, not trying to read too much in the text but most likely, the Pharisee would have been someone who came from a very religious lineage. Passed down generation to generation. But here's my question. What is it we're passing down? Are we passing down cultural Christianity? Say these things, do these things, believe these kind of

things, almost like they're a good luck charm. Are we actually passing down the name of Jesus and His work on the cross and His resurrection? But to make sure that's the message that we're proclaiming. My grandfather was a World War II veteran, one of my heroes. Old Italian man. I mean, he looks straight out of Sicily and would take you in the back yard and take care of it. Let's just say that. And he was also Catholic. And I don't remember him going to mass a lot but he always claimed to be Catholic. He had his rosary and had a picture of Mary in his bedroom. And I'm an adult by now. I'm a Christian. I'm a pastor and we're sitting down watching football one day as we always did together. And he goes, "Hey, Dino," that's what he called me. "Dino, I have a question. Why aren't you Catholic?" I went, "Oh boy. About to get in a reformation conversation about with my grandpa here." I'm like, "Let me turn the channel to the Notre Dame game. Everything will be okay." I wasn't really sure. And so, I just gave him a pretty basic explanation. You know, like with just about grace. about the Bible, about the church, how one is saved. I talked about briefly about faith alone for our salvation, not our works, those type of things. Just a little short. And he goes, "I just don't understand." He goes, "Your dad's Catholic." I was like, "Pops. No, he's not." "Yes, he is." "He's in the next room. Go ask him. He's a deacon at our Baptist Church. I hope he's not Catholic. That'd be kind of problematic." "Well, okay, fine. Your uncle Tim," who's his oldest son, lives in Dallas actually. "He's Catholic." I was like, "Pops. He's an atheist. He's like an angry atheist. He has Darwin fish on the back of his car." He's like, I don't believe in God and I'm mad about it. You know, kind of person. I was like, "He's not, he's not at all a Christian or a Catholic." I said, "Call him. He'll tell you." "Well, your uncle Ted," his youngest son, he's Catholic." "Pops, he's nothing. He's like, go do yoga in the field and watch the bees fly around." I mean, like, he's like, he's he's a nothing. He'll tell you he's nothing. He's just like, be a good person, you know, live, love, laugh, you know, all those kind of things. I actually want to punch those people. That's a sermon for another time. Sorry, Philip. And he goes, "Well, I just don't understand." He got all flustered and I realized something that day. For my grandfather, being Catholic was more important than believing Catholic. And that's not me throwing shade on my grandpa who I deeply respect, who passed away about 10 years ago or on our Catholic friends. How many people is being a Christian more important than actually believing Christian and following Jesus? And we have a different message we need to preach. And that message is Jesus crucified and risen.

That He is what makes us a Christian. We must over and over again, have these conversations and I think people get discouraged sometimes. They think they don't have opportunities to be around unbelievers because you live in Texas or you live in this area. And and I just want to tell you you're just wrong about that. They're unbelievers all around you all the time. They're just not atheists or agnostics or of another world religion. They're people who think they're Christians because they have a generic belief in God. They're good people by the standards of this world and they probably come from a Christian family. Their faith family football. But God has not given us a generic faith because He's not a generic god. He has defined Himself clearly as the Holy God of the universe, our Creator, who existed before all things. And that He created us to know Him and be in relationship with Him and fellowship with Him. For His own glory, of his creative powers. And we said, "God, no thanks. I don't want You. I want your stuff instead." Adam and Eve believe there's more to be gained by disobeying God than there was to be gained by obeying Him. They needed to go around God for what they were looking for in their lives rather than right to Him. So as a result, because of sin, we are separated from God. Why? Because God cannot let sin go unpunished. So, I don't want to be separated from God.

The wages of our sin is death. But that Holy God is also a gracious and merciful and loving God and does not punish us as our sins deserve. But Jesus, the word, took on flesh and dwelt among us. Lived a perfect life that we never lived, died a death that we deserved, rose from the grave, proving basically the Christmas worked and that it's all true. Conquering death. Went to heaven and one day is going to come back for His people. And who are His people? Not those with generic beliefs. Not those that are standing on their morals and values. God, I thank You I'm not like other people and I thank You I'm not like that tax collector. Not those who simply come from a Christian family and have a cross decoration in their living room. People who say, "Jesus, I believe that You're the one that You claim to be and that I depend on You for my righteousness. Cuz I do not have one of my own." So, the Pharisee, out of the gate, out of the gate, was praying about himself, "God, I thank you that I'm not like them. Therefore, You and I are great and I am a gold medal, five-star religious person, and You're really happy with me." Here's the tax collector going. "I'm none of those things." But maybe he heard it somewhere. He had to of. "But Jesus, You are all those things. So, I'm not going to try to impress You or one up a fishing story about my values. You know, how big the fish I caught was. I'm not going to get in some kind of comparison game with the Pharisee because I can't win. So, I'm going to ask You to forgive me." Reminds me of the person on the cross next to Jesus when Jesus died. He said, Lord, other guys mocking Jesus. "Lord, will You remember me? I know that you're something. I know that You're what I need." You're You're I don't know how great this guy's theology was but he simply said, "Lord, will you remember me?" He said, "Will you forgive me? Can I be with you?" And Jesus said, "Yes." Because He offers that grace and mercy freely to all those who refuse to trust in themselves that they are righteous.

So, my appeal to all of us, myself, included is: one, let's trust in Christ ultimately for our salvation. Which I've already done as a believer myself. But also, let's continue to trust Him as the One who holds it every single day. Cuz even though people maybe have had their salvation, you know, determined, purchased by Christ, it's secure in Him. We can then revert to thinking, oh well, now it's up to me. Like now, I'm the one who has measure up to these standards, to do these things rather than say, "No, I'm just, I'm going to follow Jesus in gratitude and worship." Like, I'm not trying to read into the text but you think that tax collector's life was ever the same again? Do you think it was? There's no way. I'll bet. I'm going to race to heaven when I get there. It's probably not in my top 25 things. I might, my first thing might be, why don't we run the ball more last night? One of my first questions when I get there. But but I want to, I want to know about his life. I think of the woman at the well, when she met Jesus, she'd had five husbands, a guy she's with now is living with was not her husband. So much brokenness in her life. And then Jesus met her, told her about grace, told her about what real life, real water in Him, as in spiritual water, looks like. And she ran back into town to tell everybody she knew. Like when you meet Jesus and you meet His grace, things change and you're never the same again. And what fueled it? His love, not our works. So, because of that, let's go and work for God's glory and be a part of His mission and follow Jesus because of how good He is and how good He's been to us. He's worthy.

Let's pray.

Father, I'm thankful for this church and I'm thankful for the message of the Pharisee and the tax collector showing us that we must depend on You for our salvation. Depend on You for our righteousness. That the one went away justified and not the other. What a story. I thank You to

every person in this room who knows Christ is the story of the tax collector in one way or another. They realize their need for mercy. And I'm so thankful that You freely provided even though it cost Jesus so much. So, I pray for this church that they'll see the area around them as a mission field, a harvest that is plenty. Lord, I ask the workers will be many, not few. Because of how this church is going to continue to see this area as a place where You have allowed them to be and live and be rooted to take the Gospel to people who need it so much. We're thankful for Jesus, for the love of God, understood in Christ. Lord, fill us with Your Spirit so we don't carryout the desires of the flesh. And that's all in the name of Jesus. Amen.