

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, June 3, 2018

Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
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PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Pre-Service Prayer//

O God, you pour out the Spirit of grace and love. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

L: Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!

C: We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!

L: We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, we will sing praises to you among the nations.

C: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

—based on Psalm 108:1-4

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Dear Heavenly Father, you are the God from whom all mercy flows, by whom all grace is given, and for whom all things exist. We acknowledge we have more than sufficient reasons to overflow with gratitude and thanksgiving. For the free gift of salvation in Jesus, we adore you. For the secure gift of citizenship in heaven, we worship you. For the multiplied gifts of providence and relationships, we bless you. Yet too easily we complain, murmur, and grumble. We grieve our attitudes of presumption, entitlement, and selfishness.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord. Have mercy on me.

L: We mourn our habits of prayerlessness, criticism, and gossip.

C: By grace, we repent and ask you to forgive and change us, Father.

L: In Jesus' name and for his glory we pray. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

L: Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

—based on Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17

// Passing of the Peace //

A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you.

- John 13:34

// Benediction //

L: Now that you have been reminded of the Gospel of God's grace, enjoy it, remind yourself of it, and share it with others.

Peace be with you!

C: And Also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Pre-Service Prayer//

Loving God, for each one who leads us in worship today, we pray that they may be so filled with your Spirit that they will clearly reflect the glory of Christ in all they say and do. We pray that everyone in this place will know you are with us and be drawn to bring you all honor and praise. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Hallelujah! Servants of God, praise, praise the name of the Lord.

Bless the Lord's name now and always.

Praise the Lord's name here and in every place from east to west.

—paraphrase of Psalm 113:1-3

[Your Love Never Fails](#)

[Before The Throne of God Above](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Heavenly Father, we come before you today not groveling but through grace; not in penitent fear but in repentant faith; not to make promises but trusting in your promises.

Our hope is built on nothing less, nothing more, and nothing other than Jesus' finished work on our behalf and his righteousness that you have made ours.

C: Because you have raised us up in Christ, we now humble ourselves before you.

L: We confess the ways we have loved poorly this week; as friends and neighbors; as spouses and parents; as children and siblings.

We confess the ways we have been proud this week: in our attempts to live autonomous lives, believing the lie of self-sufficiency and giving ourselves to performance-based acceptability.

We confess the ways we have avoided Jesus this week: by treasuring other things more than you and your kingdom and by refusing to humble ourselves that we might receive grace.

C: Have mercy on me, Lord. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

In him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. - Ephesians 1:7

[Cornerstone](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! -1 John 3:1

Since we have been made children of God together, let's take a moment to welcome one another as family this morning.

// Sermon //

Paul's Farewell to the Ephesians, Acts 20:19-38

//Communion//

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

[To The Table](#)

[All My Hope](#)

// Benediction //

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold

-2 Corinthians 3:12

With a hope that is more sure than any other hope or promise-

You are sent to boldly love other sinners and boldly proclaim the good news of the gospel to all.

Go in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Peace be with you!

C: And Also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY ([back to table of contents](#))

Scripture to Meditate On:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Quote to Consider:

The Cross also exposes me before the eyes of other people, informing them of the depth of my depravity. If I wanted others to think highly of me, I would conceal the fact that a shameful slaughter of the perfect Son of God was required that I might be saved. But when I stand at the foot of the Cross and am seen by others under the light of that Cross, I am left uncomfortably exposed before their eyes. Indeed, the most humiliating gossip that could ever be whispered about me is blared from Golgotha's hill; and my self-righteous reputation is left in ruins in the wake of its revelations. With the worst facts about me thus exposed to the view of others, I find myself feeling that I truly have nothing left to hide.

- "Exposed by the Cross" from [The Gospel Primer by Milton Vincent](#)

Reflection Questions:

- Our *Call to Worship* was a paraphrase of Psalm 113:1-3 which said - "Bless the Lord's name now and always". What are 5 reasons you have to bless (or "praise") the name of the Lord this week? What are you thankful for?
- Did anything stick with you from the sermon? What was it and why did it stick with you?
- Why are elders important to a church community?
- In the sermon Ryan said that truth about God informs our daily life. He gave the example of someone who dealt with worry and was comforted by more deeply understanding God's sovereignty. What is something you are dealing with in your life and what is a truth about God that you think could help you? A second question- how could this thing you are dealing with actually be a way God is growing you deeper in relationship with Him?
- The word *humility* was considered a negative word by the Greeks, yet the bible uses it 200 times as a virtue. How is humility something that draws us to God? How has God humbled you to draw you near to Him? How have you rejected his invitation in times of humbling?

Suggested Resources

Articles: [Elders for the Church](#) by Phil Newton

[Elders, The Church's Lead Disciple-Makers](#) by Jeramie Rinne

[Discipleship in the Local Church: Spiritual Burden or Spiritual Safety](#) by Brian Croft

Videos: [Assessing Elders](#) Jeff Vanderstelt

Books: [Church Elders: How to Shepherd God's People Like Jesus](#) by 9Marks

[Gospel Eldership](#) by Bob Thune

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents) ([back to table of contents](#))

Resource: [The Bible App for Kids](#) (download it and pick a story and read it together!)

[New City Catechism, Question 29](#)

How can we be saved?

Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in him.

Read together: Acts 20:36-38

Questions for Kids

- Do you know what elders are in the church?
- Why do you think elders are important for the church?
- Do you know who our elders are within Christ Community? (go here: <https://cccplainfield.org/about/leadership/>)
- Who is the ultimate leader of the church? No, not Pastor Ryan- thank goodness!- ;) it's Jesus! The church belongs to Jesus because he is the one who made the church by his life, death, and resurrection. The elders are men who listen to and follow Jesus.
- Consider having your child write a note of encouragement to one (or all) of the elders telling them why you are thankful for them.

Sermon Review ([back to table of contents](#))

Title: Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders

Text: [Acts 20:17-38](#)

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/pauls-farewell-to-the-ephesians/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

Sermon Overview:

In Acts 20 Paul is leaving Ephesus, but before he does he calls the elders of that church together to say farewell and give them a charge to continue the way of eldership that he has established. Essentially we get to be a fly on the wall when the Apostle Paul teaches on the role of an elder in the local church. What a great conversation to have!

Sermon Summary: Elders teach and live the gospel of grace among the people

There is so much packed into what Paul says, but we'll look at three things- WHAT elders teach, WHY elders teach it, HOW elders teach it.

WHAT Elders Teach

In verse 21 Paul says that he has been "testifying to both Greeks and Jews of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." In verse 24 he says the ministry he received from Jesus was to "testify to the gospel of the grace of God." In other words, teaching the message of the gospel is central to the role of the elder. The elders are stewards of the message of God's grace and are to make sure that message is the

teaching of the church. Not salvation by works. Not salvation by Jesus plus adherence to the law. Salvation by grace alone through faith in Christ alone. If the elders don't protect and teach that message the church will go astray (as we see with the Ephesian church per Revelation 2). Paul knows there are going to be wolves who come in and distort the message. The way to protect the church from them is to root the church in the gospel of God's grace.

WHY Elders Teach

First, elders teach the gospel of grace because it *connects people to God*. It is the truth about who God is that allows us understand how to practically have a relationship with Him. If God is who the message of the gospel proposes than we can approach him even though we sin; we can know we are loved by him for eternity no matter what; we can be certain that he forgives us without fail; and we can know we have a future life with him when we die. If the truth of the gospel of grace is compromised those truths fail and we are left not knowing how we relate to the God of the universe.

Secondly, it *deepens them in their relationship with God*. Paul uses two words to describe what the gospel of grace does- it is "profitable" (v.20) and it can "build you up" (v.32). This means the gospel of grace is not simply that which gets you into the community of Jesus, but it's that which actually deepens you in the faith. Consider your worry- what is your hope in the midst of your worry? The only thing that will ultimately help you with worry is coming back to the fact that God is sovereign and in control of all things. And not only that, but but that because of the work of Christ, the God of the universe is also your loving Father. Now you have a loving Father who controls all things AND knows and loves you. That can provide comfort, but only if you know it, and how will you know it? If the elders continue teaching it in the life of the local church.

HOW Elders Teach

Paul gives three descriptions of *how* elders teach, the first is *unshrinkingly* (yes that's a made up word, but just follow me for a minute...). Paul tells the Ephesian elders two times that he "did not shrink" in teaching them the truth. This is more than simply a statement about Paul and his wiring (as a "bold" person), rather it is a statement about his conviction. Paul is convinced of the gospel of grace. Think about it, he knew the Old Testament well, he knew without a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was the Messiah (Jesus told him), and he knew that there was no way to be saved apart from Jesus.

Secondly, Paul taught *publicly and house to house* (v.20). The significance of this is that Paul wasn't a professor who was disconnected from his students, nor only connected to them with regard to the class material he was teaching them. As he states in verse 18, he "lived among them". He shared his life with them and they shared theirs with him. That is essential to the digestion of the truth of the gospel. If the gospel is going to be more than simply a theological concept it has to be worked out in discussion with others. It has to make it's way down to the ground level where the implications of the truths are discussed with other brothers and sisters.

Lastly, Paul taught *in weakness and humility* (or weakness and tears, v.19). Why would such weakness be a good thing for the leaders of the church? Simply put, it's only in realizing your weakness that you accept God's invitation to depend upon him fully (ie- agree that you need the gospel of grace!). Elders are to be men of weakness and humility, dependent men. Men who are real and open about their neediness and sin, not because there is hope in vulnerability, but rather because the cross of Christ frees us to be honest about who we are and know we are still loved and accepted. It's actually in our weakness that we proclaim the sufficiency of Christ. This is why Paul calls elders "shepherds". Not the tough guys, not ranchers, not generals, not CEO's, but Shepherds.

May God provide these type of elders to lead local churches in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And may we, the church members, pray for our elders regularly and encourage them often. Amen.