

Communion

Growing Up In God's Family

Genesis 17 & 18

August 18, 2002 • Sunday 9:15 AM • Dr. Jack Graham & Dr. David McKinley

[Praise and worship led by Todd Bell]

[Prayer by Mike Buster]

[Baptism by Greg Tonjes]

[Welcome by Mike Buster]

[Dr. Graham]

[Soft background music] And the hymn writer said,

"Love so amazing, so divine, demands my life, my soul and my all."

A little over 10 years ago a..., one of our young deacons and Bible Study leaders came to me, made an appointment in my office, came by said, "Pastor I believe that God is calling me full time into the ministry." A... he was an executive with IBM, a marketing executive with IBM and yet God had always done a significant work in and through his life and now he was taking a step of faith for he and his fam..., for himself and his family and a, as I talked with him more and more I just caught the passion and of his heart and, and just the commitment of his life. At that same time I'd been praying about someone to come alongside of us and to work specifically with missions and evangelism and to take a position and create a position that would enable our people to take the gospel to our neighbors and to the nations and so at that time shortly after that we ordained Ross Robinson as a minister to the gospel and called him to be Minister of Missions and Evangelism at Prestonwood. That was 10 years ago and in these 10 years a..., we have literally trained hundreds and hundreds if not thousands of people in personal evangelism a, multiplied a..., hundreds have been led to faith in Jesus Christ as a result of our evangelism programs and ministries. Not only that but we have sent people all over the world to share Christ in mission trips, short term and long term. God is calling out of our church a, men and women, young people to share the gospel in the nations of the earth and it has all been under the leadership, the dedication, ministries like Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child and on and on I could go where this man, Ross Robinson, has led us to reach our community and beyond for Christ. Today is Ross and Bren Robinson's 10th Anniversary as a staff member and minister at Prestonwood and Ross and Bren I want you to come up and we want to recognize you and rejoice in your lives. [pause for applause] And a..., their children Blair

and Drew and Ty and Brook a, love the Lord. He started a, evangelism at home and they all know Christ and, and are sharing their faith as well and a we're just so thankful. Ross continues to teach one of our a, important Bible classes a, here at Prestonwood. It's one of our most exciting and dynamic Bible classes a..., he assists me in many ways. Right now he's working with our deacon body and doing an outstanding job and Ross is a can do spirit. If you, people ask me, "Is he like that all the time?" [pause for slight congregation laughter] I said, "I don't know ask Bren." A... [pause for slight congregation laughter] but he is certainly someone who's faith glows and shows and we're so thankful that God has allowed Ross Robinson to be with us all these years and we look forward to many, many more. A..., one of the blessings of Prestonwood is the longevity of our staff. Last, Rick Briscoe, we recognized 10 years and a... Sondra Saunders and Neal Jeffrey's and John West and so many others have been long term a..., team players here at Prestonwood and we are so thankful for the equipping ministry of our wonderful staff and ministers. Ross as we pray together, as we contemplate the future together, a..., we want you to lead us in this prayer and give thanks for the offering that we receive and the blessing of a, life here at Prestonwood.

[Offertory prayer by Ross Robinson]

[Musical Praise, Solo by Sheri Bell, *Blessed Jesus*]

[Dr. Graham, message, *Growing Up In God's Family*]

Amen. [applause] Amen. And as I've said to you before Todd Bell, she is your job security. [pause for congregation laughter] Thank you Sheri. Thank you choir, orchestra and thank you for participating with us in this wonderful time of worship together. Today we want to bring a message entitled, *Growing Up In God's Family*. If you would be begin finding in your Bibles 2nd Peter chapter 3 and verse 18. As we come to the table of the Lord today, as the family of faith, the family of God I can't help but think of our own family, our little family, the Graham crackers, all 5 of us, a..., Deb and I and our 3 children and just the times around the table when our children were growing up and a, from those little bobbing heads that barely reached the top of the table to now wonderful young adults and just through the years so many of our memories have taken place around the table a..., wonderful times just of conversation, sometimes times of council a... I was reading just the other day how important it is for families to get together around the table and in this hurried world and this frantic pace in which we're living today so often we never sit down together as families but a, real instruction, real life takes place often around a meal, around a table and just growing up together. Deb and I grew up as partners and we grew up together as parents and we watched our children grow and again so often it was around a table of fellowship, the family table.

Well, today we're going to gather around God's table as His family. We're His children and we're going to celebrate a... our life in Christ; the grace, the mercy, the love of Jesus in our lives and we're going to remember because we could never forget His amazing grace and His wonderful

love that has been showered upon us and so in 2nd Peter chapter 3:18 you have the heart of a pastor, Peter, who has been challenging, encouraging the believers in that day to live faithfully and steadfast, steadfastly for Christ and now he comes to the conclusion of this book and he gives us a doxology, an a, an, an a prayer of benediction a, to this particular congregation and to every congregation. Listen to the words of verse 18 of 2nd Peter chapter 3:

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

The final parting words of this great man Simon Peter, grow up in your faith, in your knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to encourage you as a pastor today. I want to exhort you as your pastor today and I want you to know that I expect you as your pastor today to grow up in God's family, to grow stronger and more steadfast day by day. I want to grow up in my faith. I want to keep growing because the moment we stop growing that's the moment we start dying. But what does it mean to grow up in the faith? What does a growing Christian look like? Several years ago when David McKinley was a..., Associate Pastor here at Prestonwood, about 12 years ago, David prepared an acrostic for our New Members Class to describe what a growing Christian and what a GROWING member of Prestonwood would look like and what are the expectations, if you will, of all of us who covenant together and commit together in this family of God and so today David and I are gonna tag team on this message and talk to you about growing as a Christian, as a person, as a partner, as a parent and that you would grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Now of course this is a, there's an assumption here in this passage and that is that you know Jesus Christ personally, that you don't know simply about him but there has come a time and a place in your life when you have passed from life to death and you have personally invited Jesus Christ into your life, that you are born into the family of God. If we are to grow up in God's family we must first be in God's family and John 1:12 says:

...as many as received Him, [Jesus] to them gave He the right to be called the children of God.

So once you enter this new life in Christ you are born into the family of God then that's not the end, that's just the beginning. We begin growing in our faith and what does that mean. What does it actually mean to grow in our faith? **G-R-O-W-I-N-G** Let the "G" represent:

God centered in living. God centered in living. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, He is the focus of the believer's life. In Matthew chapter 6 and verse 33 Jesus gave us these pure and strong words.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all of these things" [That is the material things in life.] "I will add to you."

Seek first the kingdom of God. We sang it earlier, Lord, I honor You with

my all. I give You my all. To be God centered in live, in living that above all else and above all others that we desire to please Him, to obey Him, to serve Him, to live for Him, that He is first in our thoughts, first in our affections, first in our attitudes, first in our ambitions, that we give Him the first part of our day, that we give Him the first day of the week, that we give Him the first tenth of our income, that Jesus is truly first in our lives. You say, "Well, how do I know if Jesus is first in my life?" Well, I can tell you a good a..., a good way you can tell and that is to check your checkbook and your calendar because our calendars and our checkbooks indicate what is really first, what is really important, what is really significant in our lives and I've said many times from this pulpit that Jesus doesn't want a place in our life, He doesn't want simply prominence in our lives but He demands preeminence in our lives and growing Christians s... have this fond and full desire to live for Jesus Christ and to be God centered in living, in our homes, our families, our church life, our business life, no separation between a... what is sacred and what is secular, no compartmentalizing of our lives God's over here and the rest of my life is over here. No! The, a growing Christian has Christ at the center, the core of the being of our lives. But not only God centered in living but:

Regular in Bible Study, regular in Bible Study. I love 2nd Timothy chapter 3, verses 16 and 17 the Bible says fo... that God breathed the Scripture that:

¹⁶*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,*

That means God breathed out the Scripture, He breathed in to the writers of Scripture so that when they wrote, they wrote with the very breath of God, the very words of God and here at Prestonwood we believe in the inerrant and infallible Word of God. God breathed His word and therefore it is profitable, it is profitable for our lives. Here, I mean you're interested in the bottom line, here's what's profitable. The Bible:

¹⁶*...is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and instruction in righteousness,*

For doctrine, that's what is right. I learned what is right by studying biblical doctrine, biblical truth. And then for reproof, that's what's wrong. When, when there's something wrong in my life the Bible has a way of uncovering it and un...re... a..., unveiling it and there's reproof. So doctrine, that's what's right, reproof that's what's wrong, for correction that's how to get right because the Bible doesn't leave us simply in our sin and in our guilt but there's the correction process as to how to get right and how to live right and then instruction in righteousness that's how to stay right. So doctrine, that's what's right; reproof, that's what's not right; correction, that's how to get right and instruction in righteousness that's how to stay right and that's why it is so vital that if you want to be a healthy growing Christian that you get into the Word of God. Why?

¹⁷ *that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

I believe is an, it is an impossible thing to grow unless you are spending time on a personal and daily basis in the Word of God. The growing Christians that I know are men and women who take God's Word and open it and ask the Holy Spirit through His Word to speak to them. I advise you to do this at the beginning of the day, to meet God in the morning and to ask God the, the Spirit and the Scriptures to speak to you. But not only that you would have a personal time of Bible study, but here at our church, of course, because we want to grow not only large and big for Christ and for God and to reach the community and the nations for Christ but we want to grow strong and healthy in our faith so we have built the, the a... the ministry of the church around the teaching and the preaching of God's Word and to get together around the teaching of God's Word, that's why I don't just skip around and preach here and there whatever might be my subject of interest that day, but, typically we're preaching right through passages of Scriptures. Now we're in the book of Genesis and last year it was the book of Ephesians and so on. We want to take God's Word and apply it to our lives and then the small group strategy of our Bible study classes, adult Bible study classes and a... student Bible classes and children's classes, through and through and we're teaching them at every age, every stage, every season in life to, to grow in the Word of God and I urge you if you're not already engaged and involved in a Bible class that you make it your priority to get enrolled and to get involved in a class. Let your life be a Word driven life and to begin think, to think biblically about every subject, about every situation in your life that when you make decisions, that you make decisions based upon the Word of God and in obedience to what God is saying. That is, if you want to be a growing Christian be God centered in your life and in your focus, be regular in Bible study and then be:

Outward in focus. Let the "O" stand for outward in focus. Matthew 28 and verses 18 thru 20 is the "Great Commission" of our Lord. He said to go into all the world and preach the gospel. He said:

¹⁸ ... *"All power is given unto Me in heaven and earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go into all the world and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"*

A growing Christian is not self-centered, a growing Christian is focused on others, sharing Jesus Christ with others. You know a person all wrapped up in themselves is a mighty small package and growing maturing believers know that it's not all about me it's about Him and His call and His commission upon my life and if I am a Christ follower than I will follow Him to the ends of the earth in proclaiming the name of Jesus. We have such an incredible opportunity. I don't believe any group of Christians have been given the opportunity that we have been given, or certainly no greater than we've been given.

This coming fall, October 17th to the 20th a Billy Graham Mission a... is in

town at Texas Stadium. In preparation for that we're gonna be training 100's of our members beginning this week on Tuesday nights, this Tuesday evening a... in the Operation Andrew Program, now called Friend to Friend, witness and Christian life training as to how we can invite and encourage our friends because this Billy Graham Mission is not a farewell tour for Dr. Graham. He wants to come here and preach the gospel and to preach to people who need Jesus Christ and our friends need Christ.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Franklin Graham this week and have dinner and a... Franklin and I were having a good time visiting a lot, about a lot of subjects, in fact he's been in the news a little bit later and I've been tryin to help him get out of some hot water, [pause for slight congregation laughter] but, you know, I've always said, Franklin runs to a problem not from a problem and, and Franklin is only saying what's the truth. I had a friend down in a... Florida when somebody said something controversial that was true he would always say, "Well yeah, you can tell him to shut up but you can't tell him he's wrong." And a... [pause for slight congregation laughter] but we were talkin about the crusade, the mission and he was saying, "You know" he said "Daddy" huh, calls him daddy, "Daddy's preachin strong and he's already getting ready to come to Dallas." And I assured him that our church was 1,000% behind the mission and that we were going to be training our people to invite their friends and bring people to Jesus at the crusade. Why? Because growing Christians are outward in focus. And then let the "W" rep...represent:

W **Weekly in worship.** Hebrews 10:25

do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is, but rather exhorting one another, as so much the more you see the Day approaching.

In uncertain times and the day, the day of the coming of the Lord, we need now more than ever to be weekly in worship. Worship, public worship is a spiritual discipline in the life of the believer. We have several key, primary worship services planned for all of us so that we may grow in our faith. On the weekend, of course, Saturday night at 6 o'clock; here on Sunday morning 9:15 and 11 o'clock and how wonderful it is to gather in the weekend services and to celebrate and to grow together in Christ. We're to be weekly in worship and I'm so committed to this spiritual discipline and I want you as a growing Christian to plan on being present and accounted for every time the church gathers to worship. You see I don't wanta miss what God does when we get together in His name. A... so often God breaks through in our lives when we least expect it. [paused] [turned tape] ...sat through worship services where we presumed nothing much happened, at least personally, I mean we were there, we supported and, an, an, we sang and we gave but, you know, we walk out and it was just another day. But then there have been other times when we showed up and God broke through in our lives personally. Remember the time you showed up at church and Jesus Christ spoke to you and you came to faith in Him? Your life was changed, you'll never be the same because you were in a church service and, and God brought you to faith in Christ. Remember that time when you

were in a church service and you were convicted of, of an area of disobedience in your life and you gave up a sinful habit and you begin walking in new ways in your, in your life with Christ? It was because God broke through to you at the right time in the right place in the right moment. It was the right time. Or maybe you were struggling with a decision and, and you determine in a church service, I'm gonna start walking with God, I'm gonna start doing the will of God and you determine something very important in your life and that is that you're gonna live in obedience to God.

I remember Jacob when he was running, he was on his, on his a... he was running from his brother and running from, from his past and, and he was, he was totally upset with his life and he laid down to sleep one evening at a place called Bethel and that was when he had a great vision. God broke through in his life and angels were descending up and down a ladder and after it was over Jacob wiped his eyes and he said,

...“Surely the presence of the Lord was in this place and I didn't know it.”

God was here all the time but because he was there at the right place at the right time God broke through in his life. And that's why it is so important that you be consistent and faithful and weekly in the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can make all kinds of excuses. “Well I don't feel good.” And “Well, the kids have a sniffle.” And “Well, I just want a sleep in.” And all the rest but growing Christians are weekly in worship and not only here at Prestonwood do we have the weekend services but Metro on Monday night and I am raising the bar here this morning to say that Wednesday evenings and our Prestonwood service on Wednesday evening called The Connection is priority one for all of us. I want to ask you to give an additional hour or so on Wednesday night to come and be a part of what God is going to do with our congregations on week night, a week night as we share praise and proclamation of God's Word and prayer together, led by David McKinley, Rick Brisco and all of our staff team as we get together for this believers service, this core service. Worship is so important because at worship it is an exchange of hearts, an exchange of hearts, think about it. When we truly worship, when we truly encounter Jesus Christ we give Him our hearts and God gives us His heart. I want that transaction to take place on a weekly and yes, even a daily basis that God would give us all as growing Christians a heart to worship because that is what it's really all about.

Father, may we grow in You, God centered in living [soft background music] regular in Bible study, outward in focus reaching others for Jesus and weekly, yes even daily in the worship. Lord we take our hearts and we give them to You and we ask You O Lord to give us Your heart.

[Music]

[Dr. McKinley second part of message, *Growing Up In God's Family*]

In the 12th chapter of the book of Romans the Bible challenges us that indeed our worship is to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God

and it is in that same chapter, Romans chapter 12 beginning in verse 3 that we find the "I" in the growing acrostic this morning and that is that a growing Christian is:

Involvement in ministry. The Scripture says:

³For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴For as we having many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

The Bible says that, God is now put us in relationship to each other like the members of a body and just as every member of my human physical body has a function that is intended to enable the well being of the entire body, so God has given to each and every one of us, to you and to me gifts for ministry to the body. Here in Romans 12 we read about spiritual gifts. It's one of 3 primary passages of Scripture that describes how the body is to function together. Not long ago Mike Buster and I had the opportunity of attending a conference and as a part of a preparation we were trying to examine how mobilized are we as a ministry? How does the body of Prestonwood, the body of Christ here at Prestonwood function? And we were thrilled to learn that in the course of a year that we have over 12,000 people mobilized and engaged in the ministry of Prestonwood Baptist Church. But this summer we broke the 20,000 barrier. We have over 20,000 members now at Prestonwood and so I would simply have to say to you that while I am thrilled that we have 12,000 of us involved in ministry, that's still 8,000 too few. You see ladies and gentlemen, the reality is, is that God intends for us to be involved in the ministry. Now, God gives different gifts and he's given one set of gifts to the pastors and to those who are to lead in the ministry. But the reality is here at Prestonwood we believe the Scripture can be distilled to a simple statement and that is this: Every member a minister! Every member of this fellowship is to be a minister. We're approaching the football season and of course there's a lot of buildup and a lot of interest and hype about what the seasons are gonna be like and all the different levels of football. But I'm afraid for the church, for too many years, the church has been seen like a football team where the pastor is like the kicker and when you get into that special moment on that special occasion the kicker is called to come and to make the big play and for too many years the church has been seen as though the pastor comes on the platform, he comes out he makes the kick and the crowd stands up and cheers; or he comes out and preaches the sermon and misses the kick and everybody goes home and talks about him. Ha! [pause for slight congregation laughter] You see ladies and gentlemen it's not about one or two key players, it's that God has given us the ability to function as a team and the pastor is like a quarterback who is constantly handing off the ball and passing the ball and connecting with the members, as every member of that team makes the play. We are involved in ministry. Then you go to the book of Philippians chapter 2 and we find the next aspect of growing as a Christian and that

is not only that we are involved in ministry but it is evident throughout the Bible that when somebody becomes a Christ follower that man, that woman, that student becomes nurturing in relationship.

Nurturing in relationship. The Bible teaches that our Christian faith doesn't just change our Sunday activities it's to change the attitudes of my life 24/7 as I engage in relationship with people in my life. As you study the Bible you find that when a man becomes a Christian it changes the kind of husband, the kind of friend, the kind of brother that he is. When a woman becomes a Christian it changes the kind of wife, the kind of mother, the kind of person that she is and the reality is that to be a growing Christian is to be nurtured in relationships and nurturing relationships because now my relationships become the expression of my faith in Christ. In fact Jesus said it this way in John chapter 13 and verse 34 and 35:

"By this will all people know that you are My disciples if you love one another."

And if I'm not becoming more loving then I am not growing as a Christian. A Christian, a growing Christian is God centered in living, is regular in Bible study, is outward in focus, is weekly in worship, is involved in ministry, is nurturing in relationship but then a growing Christian and yes, please don't miss this; a growing Christian is:

Giving, generously, faithfully and cheerfully. Look at 2nd Corinthians chapter 9 for just a moment. 2nd Corinthians chapter 9, Paul is challenging the church in Corinth and he says:

⁶But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, but he who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. ⁷So let each one of us as he purposes in his heart, give, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Ladies and gentlemen to be a growing Christian is to be a cheer giver. It is to give out of cheer. It is the nature of the Christian life to begin to be faithful to see what God has provided for me as a means by which I invest and partner with Him to be faithful to show my dependence upon Him and His sufficiency in my life. That begins by putting the Lord first in the giving every week, through the tithe. The tithe is the first 10th of all of my earnings reminding me that God has provided and that I am giving back to Him and investing in the work of His kingdom. But it doesn't stop at the tithe. The tithe is the beginning but the Bible says God loves someone who overflows to give, a cheerful giver and so I give through special offerings and special opportunities because all of my life is a response to the wonder of what God has done for me. There is only one motivation to give for a Christian and it's found in that same passage of Scripture, the last verse of 2nd Corinthians 9, verse 15:

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! I want to grow. I want to give because all of my life is now a reflection of having given my heart and my life to Christ and in light of His grace I can do no else and I can do no other then to seek to give my life away. The songwriter said it so well.

*When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My riches gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.
Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

You grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and to Him be glory forever and ever. Amen. Thank you Father for all that is ours in Christ and Lord indeed help us to grow up in Your family we pray for Your glory in Jesus' name. Amen.

[Dr. Graham Communion]

And so as we come to this table today I pray that we come with a desire above all else to grow in the grace of the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ because we cannot look at a blood stained cross, shrug our shoulders and go home and say Lord I'll see you in Heaven. No! Because of what Christ has done for us our greatest desire is to give our lives back to Him. And so I wanta ask that every head be bowed and every eye closed. If you've never received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Your Savior I wanta invite you right now to pray a prayer of faith. Many people know about God they are nominally aware that who Jesus is but you don't have a personal faith in Him, you're not certain if you were to die where you would spend eternity, you're not sure of the outcome of this life or the next but you can know, you can know Jesus in a personal way. Pray a prayer like this in your heart:

Lord Jesus I invite You to come in to be my Lord and my to be my Savior. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. Thank You for Your resurrection I do believe and I trust You now and receive You now as my God, my Savior, my Master and King. The Bible says whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved and so before you put this bread in your body, before you drink of this cup ask the Bread of Heaven, Jesus to come into your life. Trust Him, believe in Him and become a member of God's family that you may begin growing in your faith, you can't grow until you're born and so are you born again? Invite Christ into your life. And now Father we pray that as these are receiving You, all of us who are believer's together can grow up in Your family and as we take of this bread and remember this blood O God thank You that as we come to the table that it's all because of You. To Jesus be glory in the church forever and ever. Amen

[soft background music] Take the bread and as you serve the person next to you also the cup please hold on to the cup and to the bread and we will partake of the Lord's Supper all together at one time.

[Music as sacraments are passed]

[soft background music] It truly is all about Him. To Him be the glory in the church throughout all ages world without end. And even as Jesus took the bread that night and broke it and gave thanks, let us give thanks for the unspeakable and indescribable gift of His body and of His blood for us. How we thank You Lord, how we praise You Jesus. We give You glory and we give You praise and with unspeakable and indescribable gratitude we thank You for the gift of Your love, the gift of Your life and O God may all of us in receiving this from You return our very lives to give our whole hearts to You that we would be growing in our faith and steadfast in our commitment in the name of Jesus. Amen.

And Jesus told the bread and He said this bread is My body. As often as you eat it do it in remembrance of Me. [pause] And in the same manner the Scripture says He took the cup which was red with the fruit of the vine and He said this is the new covenant, My promise to you written in red by My own blood I promise you life and love and eternity. And as often as you drink of this blood do it in remembrance of Me. [pause]

Just a few moments ago when we prayed, a number of you prayed for the first time to receive Jesus into your life. I read just this week, recent studies indicate that more than 50% of protestants who attend church in America on any given Sunday do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Bill Bright, my friend, the Campus a... Crusade Director/Founder also said that at least 50% of people attending church in American, that's 50 million people, aren't for sure of their salvation. They don't know for certain, for sure why or if they're going to Heaven. Many are called no...notional Christians today. Do you know what that means, notional Christians? They have a foggy idea, a notion about God, about Christianity but not a heart faith, not a life changing new birth and new life in Christ. Notional faith, nominal faith is not real faith. I invite you to Jesus Christ today. Invite Him into your life and openly confess and today our ministers are gonna be standing upstairs at the banners there and there and there and across the back rail and then our ministers are gonna be on this lower level to receive those of you who will come forward today and say, "I'm trusting Christ as my Savior. I come to Jesus this day." You say, "What's gonna happen when I come forward?" We'll speak with you personally and privately about your decision. We'll answer your questions if you have questions. We'll encourage you and rejoice with you in what God has done in your life. So come to Him today. Jesus said, *"If you confess Me before men I'll confess you before My Father in Heaven."* If He could do all of this for us giving His life for us the least that we could do is to walk down a carpeted church aisle among friends and to confess our faith in Him. There are others who believe in Jesus and you want to belong to the fellowship of this church. No longer a..., a, a spectator or a visitor but a member and a servant of God in this place. We welcome you! Upstairs, again those of you who are seated upstairs and you wanta join Prestonwood just move to the minister there at the banners and on the lower level our ministers are here. We're waiting to welcome you as we stand together and as we sing God bless you as you come in the power of His love.