

“Do You See What I See?”
By Chris Ulrich
Sunday, December 11th, 2016

Thank you. I'd like to ask Jose Galvez, please come up and led us in prayer. Remain standing.

Jose: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, God, we are here, Lord Jesus, to hear from You, Lord. God you brought us, You gave us a wonderful week, Lord God. Father, You have been good to us, Lord. And we have nothing to say but that we love You, Lord, and we desire to know more of You, Lord Jesus. God, Your understanding, Your wisdom from You, God,. Your knowledge, Lord God, it's so wonderful, Lord God. I pray, my Lord, that You will bless everyone in this room, Lord God. And those that couldn't make it, Lord God. If You would, Lord, just continue, God, to deal with us, Lord God, the way that You do, Lord God. It's for our Good, Lord God. Lord, I ask that You will bless this messenger, Lord God, Your servant, Lord. Bless him, work through him, God, and open our ears in understanding. I love You. And we pray this in Your name, Jesus. Amen.

(Sometime during the prayer, Chris has slipped on a hat, scarf, and gloves.) Amen, you may be seated. We just got the word, we're going to have service outside. Just kidding. (taking off the winter gear) Just kidding. Yes, I figure everybody would be ready by now. Good to see everybody else that braved the elements this morning. I looked back through the last couple of years, we actually have a-- Pete takes care of the sermon notes over the course of time. You can actually go on our website and you can see the different sermons that we've had over the course of the last several years. I think going back to about 2009. Anyway, I wanted to go back, the last couple of years, and kind of look just so that we're not getting the same exact thing, as far as the same exact title, but I did notice that—I looked at one a couple of years ago, and the first thing I said was, “I'm glad to see everybody braved the elements this morning.” So, it's December. I guess that's what we have to expect. I know the crowd's a little bit smaller this morning.

I'd like to welcome Ed Kretzer back. Is Pat here, too? Well, I just want to mention—and, you know what? I'm going to have him come up. Ed, come on up. Come on up here. I'm very excited, this is wonderful, miraculous—he shared before he left, but—welcome back, Ed. I'd like to ask you to just share about the trip, a little bit. Just share what you did.

Ed: For those of you who don't know, me and my mom, we had kind of a rocky relationship. Through some praying and talking with the leadership, and talking with my wife and stuff, I went on a website called “PeopleFinders.com” and I found my mom. So, we talked for a while, and worked things out. So, me and my wife went to El Paso the following week-end, and I was talking to her. And, I was praying, “Okay, God, how can I just share with her the changes that You've made in my life?” And, so, I went outside, and I talked to Parrish for a few minutes, and we had a prayer, and I came back in, and I said, “Hey, mom, when we were baptized a long time ago, you know we did it the wrong way, right?” She was like, “Huh?” She kind of looked at me like, “What are you talking about?” So, I opened up the Scriptures, and I shared them with her, and I said, “This is how the Bible says to do it, and that's not how it was done for us.” So, she looked at me, and she was like, “Okay. Then, what do we need to do?” And I said, “Well, this is how the Bible says to do it, and this is what we need to do.” And, so, I said, “If you do it because of me, then, you know, then that's not right. You need to do it because that's what the Scripture says.” She said, “Nope. If it needs to be redone, let's redo it. So, my mom can't walk that great, so this is how God worked the whole thing out. The hotel we were staying at had, like, a lift chair. So, we were

able to put her in the chair. It had a bar on each side of it, and then a little seat belt. And, we put her in that chair, and we lowered her half-way into the water, lifted up the bars. Pat used the remote controls. We put her half-way into the water. I lifted up the little bars, baptized her, brought her back up, and then, Pat—another Pat, who is also her caretaker—lifted it back up while me and my wife held onto her. And we were able to baptize her in Jesus' name. It was such a blessing. God just worked every detail out before we even got there. So, thanks, Chris, and God bless.

How old is your mom? 86. He sent me pictures during the week of the scenery. I love the Southwest, it's just nice and warm, but the best part is seeing your mom get baptized. Amen. Amen.

So, there's—there are going to be a few points this morning.

The main points are going to be:

- The Truth is Out There
- Have You Found What You're Looking For?
- Do You See What I See?

1st Point – The Truth Is Out There

But it's funny how a perspective of what truth really is, a lot of times, it can get altered to fit criteria, or somebody's audience, or a certain agenda. It could be a matter of a crime scene, it could be a disputed account of what happened at a car accident, or the viewpoints of different people, as far as, like, the type of upbringing they had. There's a relatively popular show, years ago, that had a tag line: "The Truth Is Out There." Does anybody remember that? Can anybody name the show? The X-Files. Correct, correct. Personally, I never really got into it, I mean, I probably saw an episode, here and there. But I know the gist of it, and, I know that, a lot of times, we hear that term truth, and it kind of gets thrown around a little bit loosely, at times, but, I can assure you that, what I'm going to be talking about, it doesn't have anything to do with abductions by aliens, or anything like that this morning. I can assure you of that. I can tell you this without a shadow of a doubt, and make this declaration that the truth is out there.

John 17:13-17 *And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

So, this was several years ago, I can't remember exactly what year, but our General Pastor of our ministry, his name is Pastor Peter Paine, he made a statement, a very simple statement, but a poignant—I'm sorry, he asked it in a question form, and all he asked was, "How many wants to hear truth?" Does anybody else remember that? Well, I—it really struck me, because it was such a simple thing, and, again getting back to, as far as, like, what kind of audience do you have, or what kind of agenda are you trying to fit, what's the end result, or what's the goal of this truth that we talk about. The truth is out there. But it stood out to me a lot about telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God. We've heard that, a lot, before, whether you've ever been on trial, or attended a trial, or been a member of a jury, or seen it on television. That's just the common oath that people would take, that they would make that promise, to tell the truth, the whole truth, so help me God, and I appreciate that. But, as much as we can say that the truth is out there, we have to understand that the truth is in here if we

allow it. And I'm not talking about just in this room, and I'm not talking about just in your house. I'm not just talking about a relationship that's built on observation, but the Kingdom of God is within us. Because, a lot of times, I think we are observers, and that's not a criticism of us, as humans, it's just a natural understanding that there's so much to behold, and there is always something to see, but we have to understand that, on the opposite side of the scale, we're talking about something that's within.

Luke 17:20-21 *And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*

We know where we stand with God, because the Kingdom of God is within us. We know where we stand with God because God deals with us. The Bible says that the Grace of God, that brings salvation, hath appeared to all men, teaching us, that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. And that's something, when God deals with us, whether it's the first time or the second time or the hundredth or the thousandth... And I'm not talking about always being a form of conviction, or always being like, as though we have to change our ways, because God deals with us on a relationship level. It's a matter of understanding that God loves us and God does care for us, but it also says in Hebrews that God chastens whom He loves, and scourges every son whom He receives.

2nd Point – Have You Found What You're Looking For?

I know that in a big picture doctrinal view of that, the truth vs. the lie or lies that are perpetuated in society, then everyone that's baptized in Jesus' name and still believes it, you've already found what you're looking for, so we can just stop there. But it's not quite like that. We have to look at it like our relationship with God—there's a couple of us, myself and Vince Stepchuk, were talking a little bit Wednesday night about that relationship with God—it could be a bad relationship, it could be a good, it could be somewhere in between, but it is a relationship, nevertheless. And seeking for whatever it is that we're looking for doesn't have to be an insurmountable obstacle. It doesn't mean that we have to think it's like climbing Mount Everest, or any other—K2, I guess, is probably the most challenging, as far as, like, the peaks that they say that are scalable. I have no desire to ever climb Mount Everest, I'm just going to be honest with you. I've heard people say, "I'm going to run a marathon." I like to bike ride; I'm not a runner. Has anybody here ever run a marathon? Kirk? No? Todd Bostwick, you've run a marathon? You have run a marathon? Okay, ten K, all right, that's not bad, that's not bad. Not quite 26 miles, but it's something. That is something. I'll give you some credit for that. But, on the other end of the scale, it's not as though seeking God, or looking for answers is going to be just a piece of cake, like it's going to just plop down in front of us, and we're going to be able to just coast for the rest of our life. It's going to take some effort and it's going to take some sacrifices. It's something that—I've shared this before, and it's a pretty famous quote, and it was actually something that, prior to the U.S. involvement in World War II, England was under quite heavy bombardment from the Germans. If you look up the history, then you see that England is an island, but, the way that the German Air Force was able to go over there and just bomb them basically to smithereens. But, there was a man that was their Prime Minister at the time, his name was Winston Churchill. A lot of us have probably heard the name before. But, he went before the Parliament and he basically said, "I have nothing to promise you but blood, sweat, toil, and tears as far as what's coming." And that wasn't as though he was just looking at it as though they were completely defeated, but he was looking at it like, in order for us to get this victory, we're going to have to go through this. And there's times when we go through things that we think, "There's no way that I could ever survive

this, spiritually speaking. There's no way that I even want to go through it." Because, if God were to tell us at the beginning, this is what we're going to have to go through—if you look in the Book of Acts, I'm not going to turn to it, but I remember reading, early on, I mean, not very long after I got baptized in Jesus' name, and it was the words of Christ that basically said of Paul, "I will show him what great things he must suffer for my name's sake." I didn't want to read that. I kind of, like, I didn't see it, you know what I mean? And, yet, I'm not going to sit here and compare myself to Paul, and say, "Oh, yeah, I've had to put up with this..." but, I think that any of us that have endured, we've all had to endure. We've all had to go through things, whether it's persecution, or whether it's praying, or whether it's fasting, or whether it's sacrificing, or whether it's giving until you just feel like you can't give any more, or tragedies or misfortunes. I mean, we look at our brother Jesse Gulley, that he's gone through a lot of heart-ache in the last year; he's basically had two legs amputated. And, myself and Alex were up there yesterday morning, and he appreciates everybody, Ken Avellino, he mentioned your name, you brought him a movie, Jeff Lynch called, and different people that have visited him. But it was like, looking at his situation, it's heartbreaking. But, he knows he's got to deal with it, and he knows he's got to cling to God; he knows he's got to hold to God's unchanging hand. It's not an easy thing, and I'm not envious, and I'm not looking at it like we all have a cross to bear, but it's a serious thing. I mean, it's—I don't know what else to say. I know that early on, when we first had the potential of this happening, we thought, "They're just going to have to do surgery, and then everything's going to be okay." And then it's, "No, they're going to have to do a toe." "No, they're going to have to do a foot." After a while, it's like our heart breaks for the guy. The Bible talks about, "Weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice." It's not an easy thing, but, it's what he's had to go through, and it's just a matter of rallying around him, and being able to be supportive. These are some of the things that I'm just talking about, just kind of candidly about what we're going to have to go through. But it comes down to, "What are you looking for?" And, again, we don't just find the truth of God by accident; it's something we have to seek for.

So what are you looking for? And I'm not looking for anybody to raise their hand and say, "Oh, I'm looking for this or I'm looking for that." But I'm going to ask if you could just kind of chew on it for a little bit. Are you looking for a better job, or a better school? Or to buy a better house, or car, or take more time off from work? Or to make that one last big score in the stock market before it crashes? If it ever does—it might. Who knows? But, at the other end of the spectrum, are you looking to be able to make more visits? Are you seeking to have a greater ability to witness for God? Would you like to be a better steward in tithes and offerings? Would you like to see the church grow?

I know those questions pretty much run the gamut and it's not as though they're designed to sound overly carnal or overly spiritual, although they might, but that's not my intention. It's not meant to say, "Oh, you'd seek for a nicer house? Oh, you're just absolutely carnal." That's not the case, because, you know what? I'd like to get a nicer house. I feel like, as far as the job, I'm thankful for it, I actually like it, as much as you can like work. But, I also look at it like, I think we always have to keep our ear to the ground, and keep our skill set active, and try to stay as relevant in society as we can, professionally speaking. I don't think there's anything wrong with that, I mean, I look at that as something that's important in my life. And I don't think that's greedy or being unspiritual at all. I think that's just being a good steward in life. But I also want to make myself available. I also want to have a testimony that is pleasing to God. I also want to manage my finances well enough to be able to give, and I absolutely want to see growth in the church. I know I'm not naming every single desire, and I just named a couple to get us an understanding of these are things that are real, that actually go through our mind, day-to-day.

Hebrews 12:1-2 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Now, before I go any further, I'm going to say, I know these aren't really Christmas-like Bible verses and probably not Christmas type sounding points, but don't worry, the next one point is. The next one is very Christmas related. But we're talking about truth and we're talking about looking and understanding and, as I stated earlier, it doesn't stop the day we get baptized. I know the audience that I'm in here; I know that there's many of us that have years of experience, or years of faithfulness to God, so it's not a matter of, again, the wise men sought to see the birth of the Savior, and to draw that parallel, once they arrived, once they sought, it wasn't like they just said, "Well, I'm going to go home, and nothing's going to change." Because their life is changed, because we're talking about salvation. We read about Simeon—I mean, I'm not going to go to that, but he was a man that God had told him that he would see the Lord's salvation before he passed on. And, when he did, I mean, that's incredible. I mean, how old was he? Maybe eighties, nineties? Who knows? But, he was up in years, the Bible obviously mentions that, but when he saw that, it was like being able to go in peace, knowing that this is something that's real. We look at the promise of God in the Old Testament, and I'm not going to go to that, but it's in Isaiah chapter 7 verse 14. And this is one of the greatest, greatest examples of a prophecy fulfilled because it says, behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bring forth a child, and thou shalt call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us, because never before in history had a virgin been able to conceive, and that's a miracle. I know that we're in an age of reality shows, and, "Oh, you know, we've got somebody over here..." and they turn out to be fictitious. Once they prove it, once they do some fact-checking, it's found out to be a fraudulent claim. That wasn't a fraudulent claim. I can assure you of that, right now.

I want to just share something that—it's odd how we do see parallels in things sometimes, and, I know Parrish can do a great impression of Vito Corleone from the Godfather, and I'm not going to ask him to come up, but it is an excerpt from that movie, and, there's a part of it where, so the older guy, the godfather, is talking to his son. And he's talking about, "You know, this is what's going to happen, and you know, this is how you're going to be betrayed, and this is how it's going to go down," and he's like, "Okay, okay, I got it, I got it. But, something's bothering you, dad. Something's bothering you, pop." And, so, the older man starts lamenting a little bit. He says, "You know, I never wanted this for you. I never wanted this life for you. I was always hoping to see you be a Senator or a Governor, or—there just wasn't enough time." And I think about that sometimes, and I think people think sometimes, "There wasn't enough time. I wasn't able to get what I wanted. I wasn't able to fulfil that promise, I wasn't able to find true love, I wasn't able to find this relationship, I wasn't able to find this in my life time. Time seems to have passed me by." And I think we can all relate to that. I think we can all feel that at one time or another. And I'm going to share one more thing. It's another sort of—it's a TV show that had happened years ago, The Twilight Zone. But, what was kind of interesting about it, the title of it was, 'Time Enough at Last.' And, there was this guy, he was a librarian, he was just an avid reader, but he had really, really thick glasses, and, at that time, there was a lot of worry and concern about nuclear annihilation and things like that. The cold war had really escalated at that time. Well, he's down underground, in like a library vault or whatever, and, next thing you know, he comes up, and everything's just been destroyed. Now, not to get into the part about nuclear fall-out, but he's alive. So, then he realizes that, "I've got time enough at last to read all the books I want." And, then, as he goes to start reading them, his glasses fall off, he actually steps on them, and he's like, "No, no, I thought I had enough time! This isn't fair!" And, I think, sometimes, things like that happen to us where we don't think it's fair. We don't feel like what we go through is fair.

Matthew 6:25-33 *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought*

can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

So, are we looking to grow in grace, to understand the word of God more perfectly, to keep ourselves unspotted from the world? Are we looking to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might? Now, I know I didn't ask anything about the cares of this life in this round of questioning, if you want to interpret it that way, and I know I'm asking a lot of questions that aren't meant to be answered right here and right now. But those questions aren't designed to about where we'll live, what we're going to eat, where we're going to work, what we're going to wear, who we're going to meet with; they're meant to be more spiritual. They're more meant to be about the vision that God gives us. And, like I said earlier, those things have their place. It's not as though we completely--I mean, the expression we used to hear is, "Don't be so heavenly-minded that you're no earthly good." We still have to live in this world. We're in the world but we're not of the world. We still have to deal with the day-to-day problems, and, like, Alex and I, we went out walking, after we visited Jesse yesterday, and we were just talking about how every day, there is some kind of obstacle, or some kind of problem, or some kind of hindrance, or this gets broken, or that doesn't work the way we were hoping, and yet, the Bible says all things work together for good to those who love God, those who are the called according to His purpose. God's given us the power to be able to pray, to be able to seek Him, to be able to ask people, to look for help, to be able to fix things ourselves, at times. So, it's not as though we're completely helpless. We have power. We have the power of God—there's a Bible verse in Romans that talks about if God be for us, who can be against us? And that's something that's just a matter of looking at it like—not that we're going out there looking to provoke, or, like, stir up trouble, or, looking for a confrontation. But, I believe in self-defense. Absolutely. And I'm talking about the Gospel, and also talking about physically. I'm not going to sit here and act like, "Oh, yeah, somebody just mows me down," or, you know, there has to be a degree of protection, but, ultimately, we have to protect ourselves, spiritually speaking. And if we seek first the Kingdom of God, all these things are going to be added to us. And we might not even know in what way, shape or form it's like, we constantly hear about changes in the economy, or cuts in this or cuts in that, or changes, or, like, jobs being outsourced. It's worrisome, because, it's like, at what point is there going to be some stabilization? It's hard to say. I mean, I'm not against—again, you go back to that quote: Blood, sweat, toil, and tears. I'm not saying it's going to be like that every day for the rest of our lives. But, there is going to be challenges. And there's going to be—the Bible talks about there's a time of war, and a time of peace, a time to rejoice, a time to refrain from rejoicing. I mean, basically, you have to look at it like there's a different time, and different seasons, and we have to be a part of that in what God has for us at that time.

3rd Point – Do You See What I See?

Title for the sermon

There was a point that Parrish used in his sermon last week that rings very true, and it was, "Not Everyone Sees His Star." And even if we think logically, or rationally, or sensibly, or however else you would want to describe "being reasonable," we still need to know that not everyone sees the star. Not

everyone is seeking, not everyone is seeking God for the right reason. We can't force it on people. We can't force it on people and we can't see it for them either, it's the choice everyone has to make individually. As much as we'd like to see that, as much as we'd like to see everybody get baptized... In God's will is that none would perish, but that all would come to repentance and the knowledge of the truth. You look at the time of Noah. I mean, as many years as it took him to build that ark, the Bible says it was a hundred years; it was only his wife, his three sons and their spouses, and that was it. And God destroyed the earth.

Our last passage this morning:

1 Corinthians 1:18-29 *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

Now I would think that we all would think, that know and live the truth of God, that people would be flocking to the church, and not just at this time of year. Whether we've been in the faith for a short time or many years, we still should have zeal to share the gospel, and that—the Bible talks about being always ready to share the hope which is in us. But if we look back at what we just read, then even the concept of us just sitting here listening, whether it's me, or whether it's the songs, or the testimonies that have been shared, a lot of people are thinking, "That's foolish! That's just an absolute waste of my time." Because this isn't just where living for God takes place; this is just the part where we actually have the service, and, it's not like it's a production, but there is an element of logistics, there is an order, there is a structure, there is a reason for it, but, looking at it from—to the world, preaching is foolishness. Living for God is foolishness. And I'm not saying everybody, but, by and large, I mean, you see it, it just seems to be more and more rampant. It just seems to be, more and more, that it's bothersome, but, it's not to the point of where it makes us, "Okay, I'm going to give up. I'm going to throw in the towel just because somebody else doesn't like it." It doesn't really matter.

And I want to share something that a lot of you that came from the military base, we appreciate you coming out, and I also want to share something that is going to tie in: We had a Thanksgiving event that we hosted and probably about twenty recruits that were still in boot camp, just kind of toward the end of their time, but a lot of them were like, late teens, early twenties, you know, a few of them were more like late twenties, but, as I got to meet different ones and talking with them, we had coffee, you know, that was before the dinner, which, by the way, went phenomenally well, I think. But, just kind of getting to know them, and they were just happy to be out of boot camp, being off the base. I think a lot of us can relate to that. But, one thing I noticed is that they just, seemed to me, had a real, like, respect for God, and respect for their elders, respect for just the order of things, respect for the military, respect for their country, and I'll tell you one thing: I know that, like, generationally speaking, you go back to, like, the people that were, like, that fought in World War II, they call it the greatest generation, then you had

the baby-boomers, then you had generation X, generation Y, millennials. So, a lot of the folks that were there were what we would call millennials. And, from what it sounds like, a lot of the time, if you read these different articles from these different news outlets, or you hear something on television, it's, like, as though the exact opposite of what I saw was the case. And I appreciated that, because I thought, "You know what? If I sit there and get all brain-washed, because I'm thinking, all millennials, they don't want to go to church, they don't want to seek God, they don't care about this country. They're thinking one thing, and, then, what I saw, right in front of me, talking to these people, was the exact opposite. And, you know, that's a lot like going back to seeking for the truth. Because if I were to sit there and just let what everybody else told me was right for my life, I'd never find it. None of us would ever find it. If we sit here and just listen to what the council of the world, ungodly council: "Nah, nah, you shouldn't do this. Just go on. You know, as long as you don't do this or do that, you're okay." That's not the case when you look in the Bible, you look at what the Bible teaches as to how we need to live. And it's not as though it's a stifling life. It's not as though we're supposed to sit there and be, like the expression, "Goody two-shoes." I mean, yeah, there's a holiness, there's an order there, there's things that we avoid, but there's a lot of things that I think people think, "Well, how can you do that? You're a religious person." You don't have to sit there and fit into their stereotype of what they think Christianity might be. I just want to let you guys know that: I appreciate seeing that. It helped me, and it's not like I had assumptions, or I was just thinking in my mind... I mean, I've got nieces and nephews that are younger, so I, you know, kind of, you get to know people before you make that stereotype, before you make that assumption, and that was a good thing to see.

I'm closing in a moment, here, but I just wanted to share these last few thoughts. You know, we've all been given signs and wonders and magnificent experiences. And, life is about experience and so much of what we see, what we hear, and what we know, it's based on our experiences. Do you see what I see? Have you seen enough to keep you encouraged one more day? Do you hear what I hear? Have you heard enough that your belief will sustain you for one more year? Do you know what I know? Do you know enough to be convinced that the Gospel is real, and that God will keep us our entire life if we want to be kept?

Thank you very much for your time, and God bless.

GREAT LAKES