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GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Hannah Schuller (HS)

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: And welcome visitors and church family. We're always so happy that you're here. Thank you for being here. And today I'm just such in awe of the Lord as last Friday night we got to pray with so many people that received instant miracles. The Lord, church, the Lord is in this place with us. You are loved. You are seen and you are loved.

BS: We're so glad you're here, too. We think that the Holy Spirit is going to do something in your life. We never want to waste anyone's time who comes here. Your time is so precious and I believe that by committing this hour if you're watching, or if you're here in the worship service, this commitment's going to make a difference in your life today. So we're going to believe for that and pray for that. Father, we come into your house and into your presence boldly, fully restored, fully loved and called by you. And we ask, God, for all of the many needs and challenges we face that you would help us become who we need to be to get through whatever it is we're going through. We thank you that you've put the very spirit of Jesus Christ within us. Miracle working power. Let us see it in our actions and in our words, thoughts and deeds, and most of all, Lord, we love you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

HAVEN: Turn to the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

SCRIPTURE – Matthäus 20,10-16 – Hannah Schuller

You may be seated. I'm sorry I can't help but just share at least one testimony from last Friday night at our Night of Healing. There was a girl, a young girl who came forward and she had a rare form of MS that caused her heart to have problems, and it caused her not to be able to walk either without holding onto somebody or with a cane. And we prayed for her and as we were praying, we said okay, after we prayed together, I said act your faith, and before we prayed I'd watched her walk and she was wobbly and very slow so she wouldn't tip over. And after we prayed, we were like okay act your faith and walk, and she started walking as fast and as sturdy as I do, and she was like oh I feel such a lightness, and she left this sanctuary with her boyfriend was holding her cane, just walking as good as any of us, so thank you, Lord. God is so good. In preparation for the message, Matthew 20:10-16. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. These were hired last with only one hour, they said, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat all day. But he answered one of them I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous? So the last will be first and the first shall be last.
Amen.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

No matter who you are, we're glad you're here. Would you stand with me? We're going to say this creed together. We're going to beat you up a little bit today, so we're going to start with the easy stuff, how's that? Let's say this together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with my neighbor.

The #1 Thing That Ruins a Perfectly Successful Life

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller – The #1 Thing That Ruins a Perfectly Successful Life

Today is a great day to become a Christian. There are some days it's not the best day. Just kidding. But today feels particularly good. I read a book recently by a guy named Felix Dennis. You might recognize the name. He's a wealthy guy, I think he's close to worth about a billion dollars. He's earned hundreds of millions of dollars publishing magazines like PC World and others. One of them is a magazine - Maxim, okay. Its Maxim. And there are other magazines that he's done that you wouldn't have in a church bookstore, but the guy's done very well in life. And he wrote this book. He's since passed, but in the book he talks about principles that can help you be more successful in business, in work, in leadership, how to accrue wealth. And some of the stuff I agreed with, some of the stuff I didn't. It was a really good book, really entertaining. But at the end there was an epilogue and it touched my heart. And he said can I ask you a question, though? Do you really want to be rich? Let me give you an example from my personal life, he wrote. He said if you were to ask me, Dennis, you've got your houses, and your French wine, and the women, and all the adventures and the boats and everything, are you happy, I would say to you no, I'm not happy. And in fact, he writes, all of my rich friends, I've never met someone who was really wealthy who I felt was really happy. You know what I thought to myself when I read that, I thought first that's so sad, but the second thing I thought was I know some rich people. You probably do, too. I've met lots of people who are worth a lot of money who ARE happy. I know them personally! They're my friends. And if I were to ask them are you happy, they would say yes, and they seem happy. And you know what the difference is, it seems so obvious. My friends are Christians! It seems so oh, blah, oh, but there's a reason. You can have everything in the world, all there is to have, but if you lose your soul, you gain nothing. You can have all that there is to gather, the wealth of a thousand dragons, and yet if you don't have Christ, you'll never be happy. I think that there are some people who don't know the Lord that can be happy, but I think that if you're so voraciously seeking after success and wealth, but you never found the Lord, you will never truly be able to look in the mirror and say, I found what I was looking for. You don't have to wait. You don't have to get money to find what you're looking for. You found it. Its right here. It's the Lord. Won't you give your life to Him and commit your life to Him? Won't you build your life on the rock and not on the sand? Won't you set before you a course that leads to life and not to death? Won't you dedicate your life to something bigger, bigger than you ever could have imagined? Dedicate your life to knowing the Lord. You don't have to do much. You can simply be where you are and say as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. If you make a decision today to follow Christ, you won't just go to heaven when you die, you'll begin the process of inviting heaven into you because heaven is wherever God is, wherever His power is, and wherever His life is. There was a great presentation that was made on the day that the church began. St. Peter got up and he gave this amazing speech, and there were three types of people in the group. The first type of person were the mockers. Yes, there are a lot of people that will mock. And we say they shouldn't mock, that's not good, we should tell them to stop doing that. But of course they should. If they're mockers, they're supposed to mock, that's right. There was another group of people and they were the perplexed ones, the confused ones. And we say well why are they confused? It seems pretty simple, believe in the name of the Lord and you'll be saved. But of course they're perplexed, they're the perplexed ones. You don't have to fix them, that's how it is. But there was a third group. There were three thousand of them and they were believers, and what did they do? They believed. They believed on the name of the Lord and they were saved. Believe on the name of the Lord and you will be saved. Turn your back on the Lord, and you will not. Today is the day that everything can change, but you must make a choice. If you make a choice today to believe, even if just one percent of you believes and 99% of you doubts, give that one percent to the Lord, you'll never be the same. If you make a decision today to build your house on the rock, to follow the Lord, I want you to text the word HOPE to the number on the screen. I'm not going to ask you for money, I'm not going to do any of those things, I just want to pray for you. So text me, if you would. The best, smartest things that was ever said is that there were two types of people. The first person was someone who heard the message of the word of God, they heard it, they believed it and they did it. That person was like a person who built their house on a rock. There was a second type of person. That was someone who heard the word, maybe believed it, but didn't do it. That person was the person who built their house, sometimes we say the sand, but a better translation is they built their house on a wadi. Now most of us, unless you drove here from Palm Springs, and some of you did, most of us are not desert people.

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But if you live in the desert, like if you live there all the time, in the wild, you would know in Jesus' day the most dangerous part of the desert is a wadi. A wadi. A wadi is a large riverbed that seems to never have water in it. That's because nine weeks out of ten it doesn't. But like in Israel, if you go into the desert, and it rains in the mountains far away, all of that rain gathers into the passes of the mountains, it clogs together and it starts to wash what's called a flash flood. And if you've ever seen a flash flood, it doesn't look like a river that gets higher and higher, it looks like a blob, actually. It looks like if the front of a river was made out of Jell-O, and it moves at about ten to twelve feet high, and it's full of sticks and stones and tree branches, and all manner of things that it gathers on its way, and when it hits, it hits like a truck. And so he says anyone who doesn't do what I say, doesn't build their house on my words, is building their house on a wadi. It's coming, friends. It's coming. So be ready today. Tough times never last, tough people do. Therefore, work today when tough times are not here to become a tough person. Build your house. What's the house? What's the house? Who's the house? The house is YOU. Build your house. Become a student of the word. Every time you apply a small discipline, you put one more brick on a rock, and you prepare yourself for what's to come. You know many of the fairy tales that we learn when we're kids oftentimes were teachers and church folk trying to communicate biblical principles or ideas in the form of like a story tale. Story tale? Is that.. a fairy tale story, okay. For children. I think that three little pigs is an attempt to do build your house on the rock. You guys know three little pigs, don't you? Now you know the Disney version, I'm going to tell you the hard-core medieval version. The real one. The original. Goes like this. Three little pigs build three little houses. And the first pig builds his house out of straw. We can imagine what that's like, right? If you're from the south or you've worked, you can picture hay stacks, right, bales of hay. Just imagine you've got whole bales of hay just go bop, bop. And you throw something over it. How long would that take? Maybe thirty minutes, maybe an hour, and then you're done and you're whistling dixie. The next pig, he builds his house out of sticks. Maybe that takes a little longer. But if you've ever done any, like bush whacking, or live it out in the forest, you can build a teepee or a lean-to with sticks and it doesn't take long, and put some branches over that, it'll keep the rain out of your eyes. That's pretty easy, too. How long would that take? Maybe two hours? A little longer, a little better, still not great. But building a house of bricks, that's the third little pig, the winner of the story. Actually everybody's a winner because of him, except the wolf. See that in just a minute. Yes he builds a house of bricks. So building a house of bricks means you got to dig a foundation. You got to make it level. You got to pick a good spot. Bricks are expensive. Bricks take time. A brick house is not going to take a few hours, its going to take a few weeks, maybe a few months. And so we know the story. The first pig is there and the wolf comes and he says, who remembers? Little pig, little pig, let me in. Not by the.. I'm losing my dignity every second. We're going to move on. So the wolf, which represents evil or Satan, blows on the house and the pig runs from the straw house to what? The stick house, right? Now there's two pigs in the stick house. And the wolf comes and he says little pig, little pig. Blows that house down, those two pigs run into the brick house. And the wolf gets there, says little pig, little pig, let me in. And that third pig says pound sand, buddy. Do your best. I am ready for you and all that you have in store for me. Bring your best. Give me your best shot. And of course like Satan, like evil, this wolf pounds on the door, does all he can to trick, maneuver, get into this house. He's hungry and there are three delicious pigs in there. And he's going to eat them, right? And so finally, and this is the nature of evil, the wolf, instead of blowing down the house, who remembers? Climbs down the chimney, and in the Disney version, he burns his bottom and runs away howling. In the real story, the good one, the wolf climbs down because of his voracious, insatiability, his inability to lose, he climbs down, and what he finds at the bottom of the chimney is a boiling pot of water, and when he falls in the water, that very clever pig puts the lid on top and cooks the wolf, and they eat him. Tell me that's not better. I'd love to see Walt make a version of that, wouldn't you? That'd be cool. Here's a lesson that we learned. Here's a lot of lessons we learned from that: the wolf is always coming. Build your house. The wolf is always coming. Build your house so that when he comes you can say tough times never last, tough people do. Second lesson we learn from that. If you've built your house correctly, it's not going to scare away evil, it's going to destroy it. Doesn't that feel good, to know that because I'm ready, I'm not just going to survive, I'm going to devour the enemy. That feels good to me. I'm going to heal some bodies, I'm going to fix some things, I'm going to set some things right, I'm going to bring the power of God's healing presence and provision to anyone that needs it. Notice that he didn't just save his own life, he saved the lives of those who were not prepared. He becomes the leader. What else do we learn from this story? He also brings home the bacon. Heck, yeah!

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God's provision is also a part of God's wisdom and way. That's the truth, my friend. Build your house today, build it one brick at a time, devote your life to it, it's the most important thing you can do in life. The most important thing in life is not your money, although finances are important. It's not your relationships, although that's super important. The most important thing in life is who you become. The greatest treasure in life is not what you get, it's who you become. This is my sermon. This right here. This is what I've been preaching on, and I'm going to preach on it next week, and the week after that, and the week after that. The biblical old-fashioned word for it is discipleship. But it is in fresh language what we are talking about is who we become by devoting our life to the books, the disciplines, the company, the thoughts, the attitude, the skills and the philosophies that make you who you were born to be. Maybe not who you feel like you are today, but who you're born to be. And so maybe you say to me Bobby, let me tell you on paper I'm a winner. You might say on paper I've got it all. I've got a great job, I've got my dream job, I've got an amazing company, I've got a full bank account, I've got great friends, a healthy family, my body is healthy, my house is great, whatever. I've got it all. Bobby, I'm making progress in life. I've got it all. You would say to me, on paper I'm a winner, but it feels like I'm losing. Without raising your hand, does anybody feel that way sometimes? On paper, I'm a winner. On paper, I'm ahead. On paper, I'm achieving what I want to achieve, but somehow it feels like I'm losing. Let me suggest that you may have fallen into the number one trap that can ruin and spoil a perfectly successful life. The number one thing that ruins a perfectly successful life is.. here's the old-fashioned word – envy. Envy. But nobody likes to admit they're envious or jealous. Nobody does. Even though all of us have it. A better word is comparison. That is when we compare ourselves to someone that has something we want. They have the clothes we want to wear; they have the car we want to drive; they have the house we want to live in, they have the husband or wife we want to be married to, they have the friend's we want to have, they go to the places we want to go to, they have the degrees, the awards, the achievements we want to achieve, that's envy. Unless you're looking down, that's vain glory, but in most cases this is something that we all struggle with. So we don't have to call it envy today. We need a spoonful of sugar, don't we, to help the medicine go down. So we're going to call it comparison. When we compare our lives to others, it spoils the victory. Matthew chapter 10, or 20 rather, was read today. I just want to preempt this with a commandment. The ten commandments, think about how important that document is for civilization. The ten commandments are all about what you don't do or do. Don't do this, don't do that. Go do this and don't do that, and don't do this, and don't do that, until you get to the very last one, and it says don't think this. What? Don't think this way. This kind of a thought is the only, according to the ten commandments, the only one on the list that's a thought sin, and that is do not covet. The Lord gives us this command because He loves us, and He wants us to enjoy our lives when we're in His kingdom. Do not covet. Do not envy. And so we have in Matthew chapter 20 that Hannah read. Interesting story. Jesus tells us a parable. It says a landowner of a vineyard wakes up one day and he says oh my goodness, we've got a ton of work to do today. I need some extra help. So he goes down to the marketplace, and he finds some day laborers, and there they are and they say we'd love to come work for you, and he said I'd love to hire you. How about one denarius. Denarius is considered a day's wages. Today, we're just going to say \$200. That's about a day's wages today. I'll pay you \$200 at six a.m. to come work for me. And they say far out! That's great! Yes, we got some work. We'll come with you. Sees the work is falling behind. Nine a.m. finds some more guys. How about \$200, and they say absolutely. Noon comes. Goes to the marketplace. Finds some more workers. He says how about \$200. Three o'clock – how about \$200? Five o'clock, day's almost over, only has an hour left of work, he says to them how about, wait, have I been saying five or two? Five o'clock. He says how about \$200? They say amazing! We'll do it. The day is done. The work is completed. They're all shaking hands, they're all having a couple glasses of water, washing up, getting ready for dinner, and the foreman goes to hand out the money that was agreed upon. Five hundred.. two hundred dollars to the guys at 5 p.m. And now the guys that were working earlier are going oh! They're getting \$200 for one hour of work, am I going to get \$200 an hour? Then the guy at noon gets \$200. That's what he agreed on. He goes hey, hold on now. And the guy at, of course, sunrise goes oh, the guy at noon got \$200! And he only worked half a day. I might be getting \$400. And they come to the guy at sunrise and he gets \$200. And then the Bible says.. this word occurs a lot in scriptures. It almost always occurs before violence. It's the spirit of Cain that came before he killed his brother Abel. It says they began to grumble. Grumble. They're not saying it out loud, but they're saying it kind of to each other and their heart is turning hard. And they said well we thought he worked an hour, I worked all day, I should get a little more. I got a little tip jar here.

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Tipping isn't just a city in China. I saw that once at a restaurant, I thought it was clever. Tipping? Taiping? All right. And famously Jesus says at the end, are you envious because I'm generous. Are you envious because I'm generous? And that's a prayer I ought to pray. When I look in the mirror I say Lord, am I envious because you are generous to the people around me? If you're generous to them, I know things will come my way. For that guy that seemed like he got the raw end of the deal, think about how that day changed just because of his thinking. It started as a windfall! An amazing thing. And it ended with grumbling. Womp, womp. Windfall to womp, womp, and literally nothing changed, except something in here and here. That guy has two ways of viewing that scenario. The first is the way he did. The guy only worked an hour, got \$200. I worked all day, got \$200. But here's a second, better way to think and to live your life. He could have thought well, hey look at that. I didn't have to spend all day worrying about how I was going to get my meal tonight. In fact, I was picked, not last, I was picked first. We all remember what that's like. In P.E. when we're kids and you're picked last. Not all of us know that, but I certainly do. And we all know what it's like to be picked first for anything. It feels great. And he could have said well I made an impact today. And I didn't spend my day being lazy and wasting away. And I improved my craft. And how about this one – I got to spend the whole day with the boss and got to know him, and by Jove, I think he might hire me tomorrow. See that's a great attitude that leads to a better life. Not envy. Envy destroys every victory. Comparison always spoils your victory. Always. It spoils it. Yeah, you still have it, but it's spoiled. What's the solution? The solution is to focus on you. We do have to compare our lives to something, but here's something you compare your life to. You compare your life to who you used to be. Maybe you say to me well I'm not better now than I was five years ago. Well, we serve a God who likes new beginnings. And here's my advice to you: write down who you want to become and work on becoming that person. I'll tell you a couple stories. There's a guy named Simon Sinek who's like a business leader, not a Christian that I know of, and he was at a gathering of some of the world's most successful businesspeople. There was a room of about 250 people, and when he began his speech, he asked those who had reached their financial goals, raise your hand. And he said every hand went up in the room. Wouldn't it be great if you could raise your hand, and say I reached my financial goal. Okay. And then he says if you feel successful, keep your hand up. And he said every hand went down. Two-hundred and fifty most powerful, wealthiest people in the world, and the hand goes down, why? And even he was baffled. Said I wasn't quite sure. I think they need to find something more meaningful. They need to da, da, da, da, da. And I was like friend, it's because they're focusing more on the outside than on the inside. They're focusing more on what they attain than who they become. And by the way, everyone needs Jesus. You're just not going to be truly happy until you're at peace with God. You've got to be at peace with God. You've got to develop within you the life of Christ, which is real life. Life changing moment for me when I was a young man. I was invited through a friend of the family to attend an evening Easter party at the house of a billionaire. I'd never met him before. He was at the time worth eight billion dollars. And we went to this estate, there were hundreds of people there, and it was a warm spring evening here in California, and it was acres and acres of land. Imagine servants in tuxedos with silver platters and all sorts of drinks, and entertainers. There were people dressed up, this is true, in like bunny outfits and there were eggs, and lots of people were drunk. It was nighttime. And it was something I was completely not used to. It was like being in the Great Gatsby. And I actually at times felt uncomfortable, and found myself wandering up the hill towards the big house on top of the hill just to see the house. And I walked in, and there was this man sitting on the couch all by himself holding a glass of whisky, staring into space. That's an interesting image, isn't it. You're the host but you're not a part of the party. And I walked over to him and I said, Mr. so and so, I just want to say thank you so much for inviting me to this party. I've never seen anything like this. I've never been to a house like this. And he said well it's my privilege. Have a seat. So I sat down and we talked about this and that, and then I finally asked the question I'd been dying to ask him. I said what's it like? What's it like having eight billion dollars? You can do anything you want, go anything. You've accomplished so much. You're a titan. And you know what he said to me? He said you know Bobby I didn't really make it financially in life. He said I feel like someone who made the NBA but sat on the bench. I'll never forget those words. And he said I'll never be like Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Sam Walton. I'll always be a benchwarmer. And he was serious! There is no level of success or victory or accomplishment that comparison will not spoil and destroy. And plus you need Jesus. You just need the Lord. There was this thing where Dave Ramsey talked about how 89% of multi-millionaires didn't inherit anything.

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So nine out of ten multi-millionaires in America; Dave Ramsey is this financial guru, and he's trying to encourage people to have financial wisdom, and make good investments, and make a plan. But there was this comment section and the comment section, the top one, this is the best part of YouTube, isn't it. The comment section? You can see which one goes to the top? And the top comment that everybody loved that had thousands of thumbs up, and everybody thought it was the greatest comment everywhere, was something like yes, but you take your kids for example, and they got a car, and they got their college paid for, and they got their weddings paid for, and they got all the special connections and jobs and this kind of a comment, and everybody was like yes, that's right! And that might be true. But my first feeling was I feel so bad for these people because this kind of philosophy will always keep them trapped where they are. They're going to stay trapped if they love comments and ideas like that. If you really look for it, you can find lots of successful people in every field who have had the worst beginning with no privilege at all that have accomplished so much. But we're not looking for that. We're looking for an excuse. It's not about money anyway. It's more that in life you have a choice to get resentful or get inspired. To get resentful or get inspired. And you will have another choice – to keep company with people that are resentful or to keep company with people that are inspired. Can I give you a bit of advice? Keep the company of people that are going to encourage you to become more, to be more, to do more, to fulfill the dream that you were born to have, to become more like Christ, to be kinder, to be more outgoing. These types of people will rub off on you. The company you keep will change your life. So start building your house. Build the house brick by brick. Layer by layer. Drawing by drawing. Can I ask you a question? Who do you want to become? Who do you want to become? Answer this question and your life will change forever. Write it down if you have a chance. Recently I was at a gathering, a 90th birthday for a gentleman named Elmer Towns who was turning 90. He's the founder of the largest Christian university in America, Liberty University. And has written 235 books, and done amazing things with his life. The interviewer, Dr. James Davis asked him this question – if you had a life coaching bit of advice, what would you say? And he sat back and crossed his arms and really thought about it for a moment, and he said, I've got it. It's one word – write. Oh, that's an interesting response. If you have a dream, write it down. If you got a vision, write it down. You got a goal, write it down. If you have an idea for a fashion thing you want to wear, write it down. If you got an idea for a book or a story, write it down. If you've got an amazing dad joke, write it down. You'll forget it, trust me, you will. You don't want to lose a good joke, choir! Write it down! And when you write it down, you have a clearer vision of what you want to be. Who do you want to be? If it takes you even a second to answer that question, who do you want to become, it's not clear enough. I want to encourage you, if I asked you that question – who do you want to become, and you can answer it without even thinking, your life will be on a better track. The way you know is you sit down with a pad of paper, and you write it down. Know who you want to become. And then know that there is a price to be paid to become that person. The price is this: it's the thoughts that I think. It's the disciplines every day that I practice. It's the books I read. It's the prayers I pray. And it is the company I keep. And these things form the philosophy, the attitude, and the skills that will determine my future. Many of you, even as you hear me saying that, you feel exhausted. You're like get me out of here. Because it's a price. There's a real cost to it. That effort is a real price. Can I say something here? The price is easy if the reward is clear. The price is easy if the reward is clear. If you know what stands at the end of that pathway, the price becomes easy. So keep the reward clear. Keep the promise clear. Keep the vision of who you want to become clear, and work harder on yourself than anything else you work on. If you work harder on yourself than on being a parent, you'll become an amazing parent. If you work harder on yourself than being a spouse, you'll be a great spouse. If you work harder on yourself than you do on your job, you'll make a fortune. If you work harder on yourself than you do on your art, your art will be inspired. You work harder on yourself than you do on your school, your schoolwork will be easier. It's all about who you become. The only thing you take to heaven is who you become. We acquire so much in life, we can do so much in life, we can see things and all of this stuff, we can accomplish a lot, but the only thing you take to heaven is who you become. That's why the last day on earth, if I know I'm going to die, I want to spend some of that day working on me because I know I'm taking that bit to heaven. So work on you. Never stop and you'll be grateful. You'll look back and you'll compare yourself today to where you were five years ago, and you say I'm becoming someone better. I'm becoming stronger. I'm becoming tougher. I'm becoming more accomplished. I'm getting where I want to go. I'm doing what I want to do. I'm being with the people I want to be with.

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I'm feeling the way I want to feel because I didn't let someone else plan it for me. I planned it and I did it according to God's word. So Lord, we give you our lives, we give you our art and our families and our pets. We give you everything we have – our dreams, our goals, our visions. We thank you. We thank you, Lord, and we ask in Jesus' name that you'd help us become the people we set out to be, and give us a good vision of who we can become. We love you, it's in Jesus' name we pray. All God's people said, amen. Would you stand with me?

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

Now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you His peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.