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Hour of Power, 18.06.2023

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. It feels so good to be with you. Thank you for being here. God did not create you to watch you fail. He created you to be His child and to walk in power. You are loved.

BS: Amen. We're so glad you're here, ready for a new year, and a new beginning, and let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you for your Holy Spirit. Thank you, God, that we can come boldly before your throne. Thank you for Jesus, and we pray that today you'd help us to grow the kind of thick skin we need to be in a life committed to you. God, we love you so much and we thank you for life, and it's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said amen.

HS: Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – Mark 1,9-11 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Mark 1:9-11. At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open, and the spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven – you are my son, whom I love. With you, I am well pleased. Amen.

INTERVIEW – Kristoffer Polaha (KP) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Kristoffer Polaha is an actor, co-author, and father of three, who has starred in a number of Hallmark films, as well as Wonder Woman 1984 and the upcoming Jurassic World: Dominion. Working in Hollywood has given him a mission field to not only share his faith, but be involved in faith-based productions, including the film Where Hope Grows, which is now streaming on PureFlix. The film is about an unexpected friendship that helps one man put his life back on track.

BS: Kristoffer, hi. Welcome. We're so glad you're with us.

KP: Bobby. Thank you so much. What a blessing for me to be there with you guys today.

BS: It's our joy. For those who may not know your story, maybe tell us a little bit about your faith journey.

KP: Sure. I grew up in a Christian household, so I knew the Lord from a very, very early age. When I was a little boy, I spent a ton of time in prayer and used to just talk to the Holy Spirit. And then very quickly, I'll let your friends know that when I was 17, I had this sort of prayer of pride, and your topic is rejection today, and I, in a sense rejected my relationship with God out of pride. I just wanted to know if the good things that were happening in my life were His doing, or they were mine. And I sort of wandered for six years spiritually, always considered myself a Christian in that time, but didn't really act like it, wasn't really in relationship. And then God just.. He reached out and He wanted me back and He grabbed a hold of my heart, and I have been deep in relationship with Jesus ever since. That was in college right there at the tail end. My wife, who's an amazing Christian, and her father was an amazing pastor of the Lord, southern Baptist from Alabama, just really sort of have been walking alongside of me for the past 20 years, and yes, using Hollywood as a mission field and taking every opportunity I can to really shine Christ' light.

BS: It's an interesting question. You hear this story a lot. I don't know enough about the Amish to comment on it, but my understanding is that very often like Amish kids will be encouraged to actually do what you did to sort of spread their wings for a little bit. I don't know the details but..

KP: It's called a Rumspringa, I think.

BS: Oh, so you know! Okay.

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KP: It's a Rumspringa, yes, they go off and they see if they want to really do this or not.

BS: Yes, did you feel like your brief time that's.. oh not super brief, six years of sort of.. do you feel like that was a good thing for you, or what do you think?

KP: You know, it's funny, Bobby, my wife, like I said, her name is Julianne, and her life has always been touched so tightly to Jesus, and she never wavered, and she always says she's never smoked cigarettes, she's doesn't really drink anything, she's a great girl. Waited for marriage, the whole thing. Purity. And we have three boys. And her story is far more interesting and far more compelling than all the stuff that I can't talk about, where I'm like ahhhhh, I mean you don't want to.. you know. So it's like what was interesting is I did this thing called semester at sea in college, and I ran around the world, and wanted to study world theater, as I'm an actor, and I wanted to study world religion. And I went to all these temples, and I went to all these different places, houses of worship around the world, and really wanted to do a deep dive in what other people were believing in. And it's funny because my roommate was this guy named Ryan Johnson of Atlanta and he was a born-again Christian. He was like brother, have you ever really dived into the Bible? Have you ever really read God's word? And it was the first time that, of course I grew up in a household, I grew up in a Christian home and I'd gone to church literally every Sunday of my life, and like I said, I was praying, and I was in relationship for a long, long time. But doing that deep dive and looking at the comparison of our God, through Christ, and all of these other houses of worship, like I started to realize. So for me, that was good because I can stand in confidence and I can talk about my faith in a very intelligent way, and I can compare it to other world religions and I can say well I understand that this is what happens in the Quran, I can understand Hinduism or Buddhism or Shintoism what goes on. But what Jesus is talking about is totally radically different. And it gives me a little bit of authority. So in that sense, it was good. But I feel like I lost six years of wisdom and growth and maturity in Christ when I kind of stepped away. So if you're young, I don't recommend Rumspringa. Stick with it, even though you might have your own questions, you can still figure it out while walking in relationship with God.

BS: Now I heard you're going to be in the coming movie Jurassic World Dominion. And I heard you had a near death experience. Is that true?

KP: I did. They're only related in the sense that my roommate from college is the guy who's directing Jurassic World Dominion. And so he and I went to NYU together way, way back, graduated in '99, and he called me up, but he was a part of my life at this moment, right before I went on semester at sea, which is where I met Colin, I was walking in New York City, and this was at the end of my.. like I said my wilderness period, and I was with a friend of mine Katherine Smith. And we walking around New York City, and there was a ten thousand things that we could have done that would have put us in a different situation or at a different place, in a different time that night. But where we were happened to be in front of this store, and in the basement this man was trying to burn his restaurant down for insurance purposes. And Katherine was.. I was between her and the traffic, and I felt a prompting of the Holy Spirit, and I moved, and I switched sides with her, and I said I don't know why, but I feel better on this side of you. And about a block later, the building exploded, and we were caught in this blast. It was 120 stitches for me and because I had moved, I was wearing this thick sheep sheer leather jacket with cords and boots, and I'd basically eclipsed all the glass that probably more than likely would have killed Katherine. And even when we were in the emergency room, the ER doctor said, or actually the fire marshal came in to interview us and said you should have been decapitated because they were frisbee sized pieces of glass that were quarter inch thick and store front window glass. And that was actually the moment where I felt God's hand in my life. There were so many super natural moments in that near death experience, and then the week after, Bobby, I don't know if you've ever gone to sleep and right before you like drift off to sleep, God just gives you an epiphany and you see a truth or you understand something sort of greater than your scope of knowledge would allow you to comprehend. I was living in that sort of epiphany feeling for about a week, and I would see people, and if they had joy, I would just start laughing, and if they were carrying a lot of sorrow, I would start crying. And I knew that God had spared me.. like suddenly I was not supposed to be alive, and I was, and that night I went to sleep.. it was a whole night thing.. surgery.. all the stitches and everything that took place. So that next night when I went to sleep, I remember my prayer, I just said Lord, I want to go to you, God. Like I want to go to you. I want to go to you. Like I want you back, and it was just a rushing in because I feel like we all have this God sized hole in our lives, and I feel like that's what I was trying to fill, and I was using acting as sort of a false idol, and I was using pride. And then I realized that those things were never going to fill, and so I just wanted God to rush in and fill that up.

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And it's amazing, the work that He does in my life. You're talking about rejection today. It took me 120 auditions, or 110 auditions my first year out after NYU of no, of being told no before I got cast in my first job. It was a lot of rejection. And my life to this day, I get rejected probably ten times for every one time someone says yes to me. And without faith, I don't know how people do it. I really don't.

BS: Well and that's a good point is a lot of people can't do it because when you have your identity rooted in your job or your dream, even though we want people to have successful careers and big dreams, if your identity is located there, it can be a trap. Well, that's an amazing story. I also want to encourage people to check out your movie. It came out a few years ago, but it's going to be on PureFlix now called Where Hope Grows. It's a great film. What kind of encouragement do you want people to get from that film?

KP: I want people to know that really, it's about kingdom living, and really, it's about this idea that there's a character in it named Produce who has down syndrome, and he lives his life with so much love and joy and kindness, and he's so present. And my character, Calvin, he's a failed baseball.. he played major league baseball, he's a failed, he's drinking himself to death. So, there are some heavy themes in it, but its still, I think its.. I mean I would say it's a family film for people who have younger children. And it really is.. it's a movie about hope, and ultimately where that grows is in Jesus Christ, and so you see this guy forming a relationship, Calvin and Produce, but also Calvin and God. And I think it's a pretty well told story in regards to I think a lot of Christian films are speaking to Christians, and I feel like the goal of this film was to speak to people who may not know Jesus yet; who may not understand what that looks like, and it's almost a coming up from the ground level point of view of what that looks like.

BS: Well, it's a great film. I want to encourage people to check it out. Where Hope Grows on PureFlix. Thank you so much for joining us today. We appreciate your testimony and your life.

KP: Thank you so much. I appreciate being here, Bobby.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Well, whoever you are, would you stand with us? Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving. We're going to say this creed 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. Thanks, you can be seated.

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller – The Thick Skin of the Beloved

It might seem extreme to say it, but it's very hard to be at peace in life if you're not at peace with God. God's world, His whole creation, everything that we're doing, if we're doing it when we're not at peace with God, there will always be this thing in us that will try and make God out of something else. Today, I want to encourage you to follow Jesus. We can come boldly before God's throne because Christ was crucified and raised from the dead for us. And so many of us, we don't ever make a decision. We just find ourselves sort of in-between. Someone asks you if you're a Christian, you might shrug your shoulders and say well, I think so. My girlfriend dragged me to church last week, or I listen to Bobby's podcast sometimes. But really, there's a big difference between that and saying no, I'm going to commit my life to being a disciple of Jesus Christ. I want to encourage you today to make that decision and to follow Christ with all your heart, and you'll never be the same again. If you make that decision today, I want to encourage you, send me a text. Text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen. Now I think as a matter of philosophy, one of the most important human needs is to make progress. One of the most important human needs is to feel like as you're going along in life, that you're doing better than you did a year ago, five years ago, ten years ago. Yes, you might have little dips, but in general, the hope that yes, I'm doing better than I used to do. Now the world has a way in which they measure progress, and it's not bad, right? Maybe you have some of these measurements. Maybe when you get married, you have kids, your kids have kids, you become a grandparent. Apparently, that's the reward for being a parent. Your grandkids have kids, then you become a great grandparent maybe. Or maybe its financial gains. Maybe in your business you continue to grow by a certain amount each year, or by employees or products sold. Or maybe if you're in ministry, you measure it based on how many meals you've given away or people you've brought to faith, or how your church is growing. There are these outside visible things that we have in life and there's a million others I could mention with academia or art or whatever it is, and you get awards or things that you can show okay, I'm actually making progress in my life.

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It is so easy, actually, to make personal progress, but it's also easy not to. And so today I want to talk about one of the greatest things that gets in the way of us making progress in our life, and that's the fear of being weird. The fear of being called a name. The fear of what your parents might think about you. Or even worse, what your kids might think about you. The fear of what teachers or others might say about you. And the obvious thing that if you make progress, whether its on the inside or the outside, you're going to begin to stand out from the crowd, and there are certain people who just don't like that. And weirdly enough, oftentimes those are the same people who love you. All right, we'll get to that. Today, the sermon is called The Thick Skin of the Beloved. I want to make the point today that if we can build our lives around God's love for us, and live in that love, that we develop a thick skin that allows us to do better and succeed more in life. There's this guy that paints my house, he paints my office a lot, super nice guy. Drives a pickup truck, its covered in like all sorts of cool rock and roll bumper stickers. He has long hair and tattoos. My son always thinks he's a pirate. And I love this guy. And he always calls me Pastor Bobby, what's up Pastor Bobby, and this last week he was at my house to paint the railing on the stairway going up in the top room. I said how you doing? And I went and shook his hand. It's the first time I think I've ever shook his hand, because right when I shook his hand, it was some combination of shaking the hand of someone.. I had to look down and make sure he wasn't wearing a baseball glove. If you took a baseball glove and wrapped it in sandpaper, in other words he had thick skin. Now we talk about thick skin philosophically, this guy literally had the thickest skin hands. It felt like.. I don't know how else to describe it. And I shook his hand and the first thing that came to my mind wasn't how thick his hands were, it's how girly and feminine my hands felt. I instantly thought about his are the hands of someone who does work. Mine are the hands of an academic. And I thought to myself, how do you get hands like that? And the obvious answer is it comes from doing something. It comes from using your hands. It comes from experience. There is a gift in general in life, a thick skin of the spirit, or of the mind that comes where when people insult you or put you down, or when you feel embarrassed about a certain thing, or maybe in your job asking for a raise or trying to make a sale, or if you're single, asking a girl for her phone number, or whatever it is, that in life, that thick skin-ness is such a gift. And we know people who have it. The ability to be a little bit weird and stand out a little bit, well in the same way that my painter has thick skin on his hands from painting, you get thick skin on your soul from doing. From doing what? From doing the scary things. From doing the things in life that stretch you, and make you feel uncomfortable. Thick skin is a sign of experience. And the way we do it is first by starting with these words that God says over you right now. Looks at you with all your baggage, all the ways you've messed up, all your sin, all the things people have said about you, all the secret things that you have in your life, God says over you "this is my beloved daughter. This is my beloved son and with you I am well pleased." At the core of the gospel is hearing these words, believing these words, and making your whole life a response to this. In fact, the more you say and believe that you are a beloved child of God, the more the world will tell you you are not. The more you live like you are a beloved child of God and live in that power, the more the world will call you all sorts of things. And the unfortunate thing about life is that if you're making a difference in life, you're becoming an enemy to somebody. Now we don't want to think about it that way, but there are people who just do not like those who stand out from the crowd, especially when it comes to personal character. And that brings us to our Bible verse today. Mark chapter 1:4-11. The gospel of Mark.. its interesting, the gospel of Mark was the first gospel of the four that was written down is the early, early, earliest, and it could be probably called the gospel of Peter. Most scholars believe that both Peter and Mark sort of sat down and wrote it together. Now the gospels had been told, had been memorized, had been shared but finally they said okay, we need to just write this down so that people know what really happened. And I think about this sometimes. Think about writing down the first gospel. Now Mark and Peter maybe, I don't know, imagine they sit down and they go how do we start this thing? How do we start the gospel of Mark. And one of them says oh I know; I know the best place. Matthew starts with Christmas, right? And John starts with a philosophical idea, but Mark.. oh I know where to start. We should start.. remember when Jesus was baptized and that cool thing that happened? We should start with that. And so they do. They start with a guy named John the Baptist, and they want to show you that John the Baptist is like Elijah fulfilling the prophecy in second Kings. He dresses in camel hair like Elijah. He eats locusts and honey. Yum. And they're trying to show you that John is a weird guy. He's an outsider. He's a prophet. He's odd. He's condemning people for their sin. He's in mourning for the nation of Israel and the evil that its done, and he's calling people to repent. I don't know if you've seen the new TV show The Chosen, but it's very good. You should watch it.

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But they call him creepy John in The Chosen. That's a joke. John the Baptist. And he says someone's coming. I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who's sandals I am unfit to tie, and He will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Spirit! And Jesus comes. And He comes and He's baptized. Now why would Jesus need to be baptized if He was sinless? That's a good question. Here's something that we're going to say: when Jesus is baptized, He receives grace from the Father. And if you can't understand that sentence, you don't understand the word grace. Now for sinners, grace is mercy. But the word grace doesn't mean mercy, it means – who knows? Anybody here? Favor. Unmerited favor. It's the power of God within us, and Jesus, the Son, is always living in the grace and power of the Father. He says so. And so when He's baptized, and He comes out of the water, the voice of God tells everyone, and Him; He speaks to Jesus directly – “You are my beloved son. With you I am well pleased.” Powerful. Powerful. And in that moment, Jesus is just continuing to receive power and grace from the Father. Now why did Mark start here? This is the foundation for what we call the gospel, and in simple terms, the gospel is God's plan to trade your place with His Son. That the beloved Son of God will become, in a way, sin, that you, a beloved child, will become righteous. And we don't have too much.. hopefully if you've been coming here long enough, you understand this, but in short, it's the foundation for the gospel that as Paul said “he who knew no sin became sin that you could be called the righteousness of God.” In other words, we can say for sure that if this beloved son of God was sent to the cross for me, He loves me as much as He loves Jesus. Now if you really hear those words in your heart, it should stir you a little bit emotionally. That the beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ is loved at the same degree that you are. If it were not so, He would not have sent Him to die for us. Can I get an amen? If it were not so, Christ would not have died for you. And it is so. Wow! That's powerful. That's why the gospel is good news. That we can come boldly before God's throne, and that we can look in the mirror and say you are the beloved son. You are the beloved daughter. You are the beloved child of God, and God is well pleased in you. If you don't hear this and you hear everything else I say today, I messed up. You have to hear today that just right where you are with all the challenges you are going through, because Christ died for you, God loves you. You are the beloved child of God. That's number one. And number two – in you He is well pleased. Can you believe that? He's pleased in you. And not just in what you do, He's pleased in you. He loves you. And we've got to believe this. And we have to build our whole lives in a response to this. Can we do that today? Now if we are building our lives in response to God's love, that means we can trust Him with our death. That means we can trust Him with the death of people we love. That means we can trust Him with our past and our future. That means we can trust Him with our shame, our fear, our loss. It means we can have faith to believe that even, whether we're young or old, there's a miracle coming, there's a door that's going to open, there is going to be dead that's going to be raised to life, there's going to be a song that's going to be sung, there's going to be a new chapter written. We must believe that if we believe we are the beloved of God. Can we believe that today? Let's do that. If this really happened, then it means my past and my future are in God's hands. Okay, here's something to remember when you leave this building. The same boiling water that hardens an egg softens a potato. Okay? The same boiling water that hardens an egg, softens a potato. Isn't that like the kingdom? To make hard things soft and to make soft things hard? To make robust things fragile, and to make fragile things robust. The only difference between the two is what's on the inside. And this is the thing that so much of life that will break a person won't break you because of what's on the inside. If you get these words, my friend, inside of you: you're not what you do, you're not what was done to you, you're not what you've lost, you're not what you're going through, you're not what you experienced, you're not what your parents said about you, you're not what your teachers said about you, you're not what your kids said about you, you're not what your church said about you, you are the beloved of God and He's pleased in you. If you can live there, you can get some thick skin and you can go through life and become the person you are called to be. Every single person has two choices in life. You have one of two choices. You can choose to be less than you were made to be, or you can choose to be all that you are made to be. What will it be? If you choose to be all that you are made to be, you choose to be criticized and ridiculed. It is coming. And if you choose to live in that, you choose to live in the love of God, and the longer you do it, the less you'll care about what people say and think about you. It's time we get weird for God. Today's the day. It's a good day to get weird for God. Anybody that knows me, knows I am, not a lot weird, but I am a little weird. Thank God. Thank God for that. Thank God that your pastor is a little bit weird. Any pastor that's not a little bit weird on the outside is a lot weird on the inside, let me tell you from experience.

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Anyone who is so worried about what's visible is not worried, usually, about what's invisible. And it is important that we focus on what's happening in invisible places in our lives; that we're working on what's in our heart more than we're working on how we look. So if we live in this where we're working on what's invisible rather than what's visible, there's a lot of things that we can do, but here's three good ones. Number one – you can change the meaning that you ascribe to negative experiences. If it's in God's kingdom, it doesn't always mean what we think it could mean. We can change the meaning of insults for us. We can change the meaning of setbacks. We can change the meaning of breakups. We can change the meaning of deep loss. It may not mean what you think it means if it's in God's loving care. Brother Anthony. My brother is very good looking and he's always, before he was married, always had a girlfriend like after every other.. you know. And he was dating this girl. She was wonderful. And he was serious about her, and he said I think we might get married. And one day he comes to me and he says Bobby, we broke up. And she broke up with him, you know how I know? Because he said it was mutual. Now it might have been mutual, but somebody sat down and reached their hands across the table and said we need to talk. All right. So it was not mutual, I don't think. But anyway, and I could tell he was heartbroken about this thing. And couple months go by, and now that she's not dating him, but he can see all of the stuff that he didn't see when they were dating. And he said to me wow, I dodged a bullet. Now think about the meaning that you ascribe when someone leaves you, and then you find out later it wasn't the person you thought. Perhaps ascribing too much meaning to that is a mistake. Perhaps it's better to say.. what if we can say this – that some of the things that we think are happening to us, maybe are happening for us. That didn't happen to Anthony, it happened for him and it happened for his girlfriend, probably, too. Another great friend in college was engaged. He was one of the most, and still is, a great man, but his fiancé broke up with him. And he became a different person for like two years. I think it's easy when we're abandoned, when we're left, when we go through hardship or we go through loss to ascribe meaning about ourselves to that event. If they left me, that means I'm X, Y and Z. If they said this about me, that means I'm X, Y and Z. If they fired me, that means I'm X, Y and Z. If my church kicked me out, that means I'm this. If I whatever, and we go through these experiences in life, the very negative experiences and we ascribe big, big meaning that God has not ascribed to those events. But if we can ascribe to ourselves I am the beloved of God, I live in His loving care, this is sad, this bothers me, I'm frustrated about this, but I'm not going to ascribe too much negative meaning to this, you will find that you'll make better progress in your personal life. So number one, yes, if we live in God's love, it means that we can change the meaning that we ascribe to those negative things that we experience. Okay. If we live in the beloved of God, here's another thing we can do. You can stop negotiating against yourself. In business, this is a classic thing that new people in business do. You negotiate a deal, and then the person you're negotiating against just starts doing the negotiating for you! Let me lower the price even more! Let me do even better! And this drives, if you're an attorney, you're probably experienced this before if you have a client and you're litigating something, this drives attorneys crazy, of course. You've maybe heard me use this experience before, but many of us as Christians are like this – the Bible says that Jesus is our attorney, and we're in the court of law and we're being judged. And there we stand and you're like at your little table. And you're the defendant, and you're on trial and Christ is standing next to you, and the Father is the judge, and then on the other side of the room is Satan, who is called what? The accuser of the brethren. So he's the prosecutor and you're the defendant, and the prosecutor stands up.. Satan stands up and says he is a sinner, he did this, he's a loser, he's.. whatever. All of these things that he says about you, and Christ stands up and He says no, he's not. He is this, this, this and this. And you stand up and you say no, the prosecutor is right! I am this, this, this and this. And the attorney looks at you and says what are you doing? I think in life, very often, this is what we do. We condemn ourselves. We destroy our miracle, we cut out faith, we put others down, we side with Satan by saying this over other people. And at no point does the Bible tell us to do that, right? The Bible tells us to confess that we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. That we are the beloved of God. That we are mountain movers. That we stand in the present kingdom of God. That chains will be broken. That mountains will be split. That rivers will flow. That the deserts will run green again. See this is the kind of life that we're called to live. But that's a little bit weird, isn't it. It's a little bit weird. Who here is ready to be just a little bit weird for God? You know what the Bible calls us, the church, the Bible calls us a peculiar people. If you're not a little peculiar, you got a little adjusting to do. Time to stop caring about what so many people say about you. Care about what God says about you. He says I'm on your side. He says I love you. He says I'm for you. He says I'm behind you.

The Thick Skin of the Beloved

He says I forgive you. He says I bless you; I heal you; I open doors for you, I'm setting things right for you. I'm making the crooked path straight for you. I'm destroying every assignment against you. I'm destroying every weapon set against you. Time to believe that. Time to get a little weird, guys. And time to work here on the inside. So if you believe in the beloved of your life, you can also, unless maybe they'll stop big, big, big one, you can stop hustling for approval. Stop worrying compulsively about what everyone thinks – your neighbors and your sister and your parents and your whatever, and this is what the world does – hustles for outward visible things. And those visible things are important. No doubt money is important, your house is important, your job is important, these are important things that matter to God, but God tells us focus on the kingdom and those things will get taken care of. What does that mean? Focus on what's invisible and the visible will appear. If you focus on the visible, the visible will become invisible, meaning they'll go away and we don't want that, right? So hustle! Hustle for sure, but not for approval. Here's what you hustle for. You hustle for the inner life. Pray more than other people pray. Give more than other people give. Read more than other people read. Make bigger goals than other people make. Do the kinds of things that develop you on the inside, and it will begin to show on the outside. And trust all of your life that you're going to stop.. some of us are carrying around these really horrible words that somebody put on us. Maybe your parents said you'll never be good enough. Maybe your sister said you are a whatever, fill in the blank. I remember my uncle; he was a pastor. My uncle grew up in this church. You know what his pastor called him when he was like 16/17? He was like a good kid. Because he had long hair, his pastor called him Charles Manson. Charles Manson. And every time he would make a mistake, come into a Bible study late, oh here comes Charles.. Charlie Manson coming in late. Now we don't see a lot of that as much anymore, but people still do it, and they especially do it online. And it's amazing how we can take a word from a complete stranger that's a really what's more a reflection of what's going on in their life, and let it be a part of us. Just rebuke those words! Get them out of your life. Get them out of your mind. Out of your heart forever. Those are not God's words. Let the word of God be in your heart, and let it abide in you forever, and begin to build inside what you want to see on the outside, and your life will never, ever be the same. Emmerson said it's not what is behind you, or before you, it's what's within you. Let's get it on the inside, guys. Let's get those words inside of us, nurture them, care for them, and continue to develop within us that inner life. Father, we thank you for your Holy Spirit and we thank you for the word that says over this person listening to me now, he/she is the beloved child of God in whom you are well pleased. We believe it, we live from that place, and we thank you, it's in Jesus' name, and all God's people said, amen.

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.