

OPENING SENTENCE/WELCOME – Bobby Schuller

Amen. This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. He is risen.
(AUDIENCE - He is risen indeed)

And this is Easter. We're so, so glad that we've all been able to gather here together as saints this morning. And of course, we don't come here to put on a concert for visitors or anything like that, but we gather here to present something to an audience of one, and His name is Jesus Christ. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) We are here to lift up the name of Jesus, the name above every name, and invite the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit to be here amongst us.

I want to encourage you, if you don't go to church a lot, and you're coming because it's Easter, we're so glad you're here, but we want to encourage you to engage in worship with us. You go to a party, you go to a sports game.. a sports game. That's how much I've been watching sports. You go to a football game or something, and a touchdown is scored, what do you do? Yes, you cheer, you celebrate. We're going to do that together. We're going to invite you to celebrate with us. This is the biggest day in human history, and we're so glad you're a part of it. Let's do it together.

Let's just begin to thank the Lord now. Father, thank you. We love you. We're grateful for you. We bless the name of the Lord, and we invite you, Holy Spirit, to be here among us. And it is in the strong name of Jesus we pray, and all God's people said, amen.

PRAYER – Hannah Schuller

He is risen! (AUDIENCE - He is risen indeed) Thank you, Lord. And today we wanted to do.. I actually felt like the Lord, He spoke to me and originally I was just going to pray for anyone here who needed deliverance from mental distress, but I felt like the Lord is no, I want you to include physical healing also today. This is a day that we celebrate victory! Victory from the grave. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.

If you've been dealing with chronic anxiety, depression, fear, worry, any mental distress, we're going to pray for you. Also, if you need physical healing, we already have testimonies coming in from last week when we prayed over physical healing of pain leaving instantly, so thank you, Lord. The power of God is in this room right now among us. He is with His people, and there is power in us when we lay hands on each other, because we are the temple. God abides in us and through us.

Really quickly, this year, I remember right over there, we laid hands on a woman named Rebecca, and she said that her mother had passed away three years ago and that she'd had chronic panic attacks since that time, that every night around 2:45 to 3:30, she'd jolt up and bed with her heart beating fast and just burst into tears. And she said, this is for years going on. And she said she just struggled with kind of anxiety controlling her life in that time.

And her husband heard about one of the Nights of Healing's that we did, and he said, sweetheart, go to the Night of Healing. And she says, Hannah, I grew up in the church, but I don't know why I had a hard time believing I could really be delivered from such a heavy, heavy thing that was on me. She goes I went to Night of Healing. I couldn't even bring myself to come to be laid.. she's like I stayed behind the glass panel the whole night. But then luckily she kept coming to church and she saw that we'd lay hands on people for healing before the service. She finally asked us to come and pray for her. We laid hands on her and she said as a hand was laid on her head, she felt tingling all around where the fingers were and where the hand was laid. And as the same moment of that tingling, that something heavy lifting off of her chest, that she wasn't even aware, but was there. And she said as.. thank you, Lord. And as she walked back to her family, that she said, it felt incredible. I felt so light. She goes, Hannah, from that moment, I have slept peacefully every night for months. This is when she had a testimony.. for months, and I only wake up at 7am.

Thank you, Lord! He is the deliverer. He heals us. Thank you, Lord. Our last Night of Healing, we got to see ears that were deaf open and tears fill up as she just could hear perfectly. It's all real. The Lord is here in this place.

If you need deliverance, we're going to pray for you right now. The scripture we're going to stand on is John 14:27. "Peace, I leave with you. My peace I give you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." So if you need mental distress healing, we're standing on that. If you need, also by His wounds, what is it? We are healed. Okay? So if you need physical healing, we're going to stand on that for you. Okay?

If you need mental distress deliverance, anxiety, depression, any of these things; it could even be just fear and worry, or you need physical healing. You've got pain going on; we've had cancer, just anything, nothing is impossible with our God. Amen?

If you need that, would you raise your hand so we could lay hands on you? There is power in that. Raise your hand now if you have that. Okay? Anybody with their hand raised, would you come along? There is power in the body of Christ. I want to make sure every person with their hand raised has multiple people either laying hands on them or reaching towards them. Okay? At least laying hands on. So up here, can we get some hands laid here? And some hands. See over here on the left on the balcony. Christine, can we get some hands laid? And all of you around them, would you lay hands? Okay. Even if you're not used to laying hands on people, God will use you, okay? He will use you. Okay? Everybody around here, hands laid here. Okay.

Church, do we believe God's words to us? (AUDIENCE – yes) Hallelujah. Then Abba Father, we come to you in the name of Jesus Christ and we lift up every person here who has raised their hand, or those who are watching online, we have heard your words to us, that you offer us your divine peace and that by your wounds we are healed. You said it, we believe it. That settles it. So right now, we command every spirit of anxiety, every spirit of fear and depression, every spirit of worry and mental torment, every pain, every cancer cell, every single ailment in these bodies, spirit of those, go leave them right now, by the powerful blood of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, go and do not return. In the name of Jesus Christ, we speak your peace and healing over these ones right now. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. It is done unto them now, in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, amen. Amen. Thank You, Lord.

And whether you feel an instant lightness or you don't feel any difference, continue to know that by faith you just released your healing faith. You just released that seed of faith, and if you have, maybe tonight or even a month from now, you're like, oh, I'm free, but then you have like a little sense of heaviness coming over you, remember, the enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy. Command that to go in the name of Jesus Christ and watch what happens in your life as you do this.

Thank you, Lord. We are free. Who the son sets free is free indeed. Thank you, Lord. We love you. Let's continue to worship as a response to this. Let's continue to worship our living God. Amen.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Let's say this creed together. Hold your hands like this as a way of receiving. Let's say this together: Thank you, Lord, for the cross. 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. Amen!

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "Come Alive"

At the end of the sermon, I'm going to give you an opportunity to become a Christian. Who knows Easter Sunday is a great day to commit your life to Christ. There's no better decision. This room is full of people who didn't know the Lord, who were far from God, who gave their lives to Christ, and have never been the same. If you're a person like that, let me see your hand. If you've been transformed by Jesus Christ, let me see your hands. I was transformed. I'll never be the same, and I'm grateful for that.

It's interesting for me, even growing up, going into church and different places, for a lot of my life, I didn't know how to go to heaven. I know that sounds silly, but I should have, but I just didn't. This is a true story. I remember watching.. I just thought of this this morning: *Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey*. Now that's part two, where they go to heaven with death, with the guy, death. It's very funny. And they're waiting in line to get in. And this St. Peter type figure says, what is the meaning of life? And keep in mind, I'm like 11-years-old when I see this. And Bill goes, every rose has its thorn. And what does he say? Every night has its dawn. And every cowboy sings a sad, sad song. And Peter goes, okay, come on in. And they let him in. Now, as funny as that sounds, in my mind, I actually was like as a 10/11-year-old, I was like, I got to remember this. I got to remember this poem. I didn't know it was Guns N' Roses. And we're not promoting Guns N' Roses here, but we're not not promoting Guns N' Roses. All I'm saying is..

And then I remember a serious.. it was later I went to Indian Village and there was a Billy Graham style altar call that was given, and I wanted to respond to that altar call and I didn't. And when I left there, for years, I felt like I had lost my opportunity to go to heaven because I had not responded to that. And I thought about it off and on for years.

And it was actually when I was 15, I really did make a commitment to follow Jesus Christ, to become His disciple, and my life has never been the same. And I'm a pastor! But it doesn't mean you have to become a pastor. Maybe you will. But I can say for sure that following Christ, my life was transformed.

I want to begin by saying this: you are God's idea. You are God's big, awesome, great idea. And maybe you have some kind of physical problem or something that makes you feel like an outsider or some past or something that you've done. I still want you to know that God loves you. That you're God's beloved. You're God's dream. You're God's dream. He dreamt you up. The Bible says when you were in the womb, He knew you. The Bible says that you're the apple of His eye. That if somebody pokes you, it's like somebody poked God in the eye. The Bible says that He knows all the numbers of the hair on your head. I mean, who even cares about something like that? But the answer is God does, and God knows whether you have many or few, He knows.

Here's another thing that you are. The Bible says you are His finest creation. Now I know many of us in here, whether we're Christians or not, we don't always feel like we're God's idea, or God's dream, or God's finest creation. We feel like losers, or we feel like we're left out, or we're not sure we even believe in all this stuff. And very often life, it's life, it's the sin.. not just our sin, but as people sin against us, we get ruined.

You think about how a baby when it's born is so pure and so wonderful and clean, and even little children, how special and precious they are. And maybe you were this way as a child. And then as life went along through your teenage years and young adulthood and adulthood, you watched as things got harder and more confusing and you were harmed and you harmed other people. You were sinned against and you sinned against other people. And you just see how the life of a little child over time becomes something else. And when it becomes something else, it's hard to still believe I'm God's dream; I'm God's idea. God thought of me.

All of us need Jesus. We need the life of Christ inside of us so that the Holy Spirit can every day testify unto us I am a child of God. I'm a blood bought believer. My future is better than my past.

And it is this power of the Spirit that can only come to you through your baptism and your faith in Christ. And we need it, my friends, we need it. We need the life of the Holy Spirit. Life becomes too hard, too dry and dead without the Lord. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) And everybody needs it.

Tommy Barnett told a story.. he has a dream center. His son runs it now in a rough part of LA. He told a story about a prostitute in her 40's who had come to faith and was trying to turn her life around. Had a really nasty boyfriend and just all of this stuff and just had a rough, rough life. And when her birthday came around; she became a Christian. She committed her life to God, but was on a long journey of turning her life around. And when her birthday came around, they brought her a birthday cake and sang her happy birthday, and she just began crying. And they said, why are you crying? We're singing Happy Birthday. She said, I've never had a birthday cake before. I've never had a birthday party. Nobody's ever sung Happy Birthday to me. Is the gospel for a person like that?

(AUDIENCE – yes) Who here knows that the Bible tells us that is one of the most precious, desired, power-filled, potential people in God's kingdom.

And then there's another story I heard.. or I know of. A successful woman who went to Juilliard, who grew up with loving parents that were strict but loving. And she had the best grades and she married the best man and she had beautiful kids and everything was going right in her life. And she found herself in a deep pit. On paper, her resume looked really good. She got a lot of what she wanted in life, but she was in a deep, deep pit. Who here knows that the prostitute woman and the perfect woman, perfect woman, that their lives were essentially very similar. They were both far from the Lord. Neither one believed that they were treasured by God.

And so many of us here, especially in a place like Irvine, are caught in this trap that I'm what I do. I'm what I do for a living. I'm what I do for my hobbies. I'm what I have. I'm what people say about me. One of the things I noticed about American culture is people are way more beautiful than they've ever been. It's amazing, when you look at 60-year-old women now on Instagram, they're better looking than 20-year-old women were in the 70's. The Golden Girls. The Golden Girls actors, I think a couple of them were in their 40's. Hannah is in her 40's. Now what I'm saying is, Hannah, there are women in their 40's now like Hannah that are unbelievably beautiful. She doesn't like it when I do that. I'm getting off track here. I'm getting off track.

People are more beautiful today than they've ever been, and it is so easy, so easy to think to yourself constantly; do women struggle with this, Hannah? You go online, you're like, wow, that girl's really pretty, or wow, that guy's really, really handsome or really buff or really successful or really this or really that. It is becoming harder and harder in life when the world is becoming shinier and prettier. It is becoming harder and harder to believe that I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what I look like. I'm not my age. I'm not what people or society or my parents or anybody, I'm not what they say about me.

Here's what I am. I'm what Christ did for me. I am what Christ does for me. I am what Christ has for me. I am what Christ says about me. Amen? Who here knows every one of us, from the oldest to the youngest, sinners and saints alike, you are God's idea. You are God's treasure. You're God's plan.

Guess what kind of plan God has for you. (AUDIENCE – good) Who here knows it's a good plan? (AUDIENCE – yes) Jeremiah 29:11 gives us an idea of what God's plan looks like. *“I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord.”* What? “Plans to” what, (AUDIENCE - prosper) “and not to harm you. Plans to give you” what? (AUDIENCE – a hope and a future) and a..? (AUDIENCE – future) “future.”

We all need a hope. We all need a future. And the Lord offers that to us. Amen?

(AUDIENCE – amen) And He offers it to us because of the resurrection. So the problem is, of course, that too many of us have rejected the Lord. We just said it. I want to prosper, I want hope, I want future, I want a plan, I want to do it my way, though. It's my way.

I will tell you something: my way doesn't work. My way is not going to heal a broken heart. My way is not going to rid me of my addictions and chains and all this stuff. If it's my way, my bank account will never be big enough. My house will never be big enough. The people around me will never be good enough. I will never be good enough. Who here knows there's a better way?

So the only way to have God's plan is to become God's man, or, the only way to have God's plan is to become God's woman. There's no other way to get that plan. You got to go His way and you get His plan. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) Easter is the celebration that the Son of God was crucified, that He died for our sins, and that the ugly, marred, ruined, distorted, twisted, stabbed, bleeding skin-coming-off body of Jesus was buried and raised into a new life. Do we really believe, actually, that Jesus literally was raised from the dead? Do we believe that? (AUDIENCE – yes) Are we that crazy? (AUDIENCE – yes) Now there were 500-plus people that testified to this. Multiple corroborated documents talk about it. Of the 11 disciples, not including Judas, but of the 11 disciples, 10 of them died testifying to the resurrection. Do people die for a lie? If you told a lie and somebody put a gun to your head and they were like, tell me the truth, you might lie about telling the truth even, right? They would not.. they all died for a truth. No man dies for a lie. And in fact, today we continue to see the great work, the miracle working power of God in healed bodies and people who are delivered, and this all testifies to the risen Jesus.

If you want to go to heaven, the Bible tells us how. Who wants to know how to go to heaven? Really? I want to go to heaven. Raise your hand if you want to know how to go to heaven. Now, you might already know. Is it worth reviewing? (AUDIENCE – yes) Here's how you go to heaven when you die. There's only one way. Do you go to heaven by being a good person, yes or no? (AUDIENCE – no) Some of you might be surprised to hear that. It's not good people that go to heaven. Do you go to heaven by being religious, yes or no? (AUDIENCE – no) Some of you might be surprised that religion doesn't get you into heaven, either. Here's how you go to heaven: you believe in Jesus Christ, that He died and rose again for the forgiveness of your sins, and you commit your life to Him. Is there any other way, church? (AUDIENCE – no) This is the only way. There's only one way. If you have your Bibles, open up with me, I'll just go through them very quickly. Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Now that might seem like a sad thing, but then in some ways it's good news. Who here knows that cures racism; that cures prejudice; that cures class warfare. How many of us are sinners? (AUDIENCE – all) All of us were sinners! All of us. All of us. None of us.. there's not one person here who is not sin.

Romans continues to say that the wages of sin, in Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is" what? (AUDIENCE – death) "Death. But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." It is our sin that makes us oil to the water of heaven, and there is no amount of good deeds and religiosity that is going to fix that. The only thing that fixes that is believing on Christ crucified. It is that atoning work; is that work that removes the sin, the curse, from our life. Amen?

Romans goes on to say, "Christ died for us." "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

I want to tell you something. This is a reflection of God's love, not just a reflection of His judgment. It is a reflection of His love. If you were the only person that needed dying for, He would have done it. And let me tell you something, some of you Christians might be confused by or disagree with this next thing I'm going to say, but you are worth it. Jesus died for you, and you're worth it. You know how I know that? God doesn't do anything that isn't worth doing. If God did it, it's worth it. Amen?

And finally, here's how you do it. Romans 10:9-10, "If you declare with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." What that means is if you profess that confession over your life, your sin will be removed and you'll go to heaven. That's it. It's not Guns N' Roses. Okay? It's not religion. It's not a good moral report card. It is the cross of Jesus Christ and the resurrection.

And in fact, I have a little more I want to say, but I just want to stop here, and I want to give everyone the opportunity to pray this prayer. Bow your heads with me. We're going to pray this prayer together, but if you've never prayed this before, I'm going to ask you to say it from your heart, and if you say this prayer, you will be saved, if you believe it and you say it. If you believe it one percent, that's enough. Jesus said, if you give me the mustard seed, I'll multiply it.

So repeat after me: Jesus Christ, Son of God (AUDIENCE – Jesus Christ, Son of God), forgive me, I am a sinner (AUDIENCE – forgive me, I am a sinner). I confess (AUDIENCE – I confess) with my mouth (AUDIENCE – with my mouth) Jesus Christ (AUDIENCE – Jesus Christ) paid the price (AUDIENCE – paid the price) for my sin (AUDIENCE – for my sin). I receive the free gift (AUDIENCE – I receive the free gift) of eternal life (AUDIENCE – of eternal life). I will never be the same (AUDIENCE – I will never be the same). I'm turning my life around (AUDIENCE – I'm turning my life around). I am a new creation (AUDIENCE – I am a new creation). Not by my power (AUDIENCE – not by my power), but by your spirit (AUDIENCE – but by your spirit). Holy Spirit (AUDIENCE – Holy Spirit), I invite you in (AUDIENCE – I invite you in) to cleanse me (AUDIENCE – to cleanse me) and to save me (AUDIENCE – and to save me) in the name of Jesus (AUDIENCE – in the name of Jesus), amen (AUDIENCE – amen). Amen! Let's give Him a hand. Hallelujah.

If you did that, fill this card out. I need to baptize you. You've got to be baptized, okay? You've got to be baptized. If you're a Christian, you've been a Christian for a long time, you've never been baptized, get it done. Just get it done. All right. I'll do it next week. I'll finish with this, and when I say I'll finish with this, I need like 10 more minutes. Is that cool? (AUDIENCE – yes) I know I'm the only thing between you and a Honey Baked Ham. All right. I need to impress on you, you are God's treasure. You are God's treasure. You were worth it. You might be marred, you might be battered, you're still a treasure. How many of you, if you're walking down the road and you see a hundred dollar bill on the ground, but boy, it is crumpled up, it is dirty, it is marred. It's got - what? It's got something on it. How many of you will abandon that hundred dollar bill? The answer is nobody. Nobody. Not even Bill Gates. Nobody. That's because a marred, crumpled up hundred dollar bill is worth as much as one that came right off the printer.

Here's what makes a hundred dollar bill worth it, and the answer is the words that are printed upon it. The words that are printed upon it. It says 'legal tender.' Right? It also says, 'in God we trust,' but it is the legal tender note; it is that contract that makes it valuable. It is the word that makes it valuable.

And in fact, many of us were like that. God is asking you to invest your life into His kingdom. You might think your life is worthless because you're marred and you're crumpled up and you're abandoned. You're not. You're not. You are His beloved treasure. And in fact, you're like a seed. Jesus tells us that it is like putting your life in the ground, and if you do that, it will grow. He says, unless a kernel of wheat is placed into the ground and falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces what? Many seeds. This is the idea of investing your life. Yes, when you are baptized and when you give your life to Jesus, you are dying to your sin, you're dying to your anger, you're dying to your worry, you're dying to your doubt, you're dying to your not my way. How many would be very glad to be free from all those things? I know I would. Many people are spending thousands of dollars to go on a vacation for a week in the hopes that they'll find that thing just a little bit. Who here knows you don't need to go on vacation to find that kind of peace, that kind of life and that kind of joy? You can find it this today.

And so you say, well, what do my hundred dollars become? Hey, guess how much.. Bitcoin, in 2010 went to the public market. If you bought \$100 of bitcoin, guess how much it would be worth today? I wrote it down: \$172 million dollars. Who here knows that one hundred dollars, if it's invested in the right thing, can become a lot more than one hundred dollars? Your life can become a lot more if you invest it in the right thing. Is that right? (AUDIENCE – yes) Is that right?

And remember when bitcoin came out what everybody said about it? I still remember when the first guy paid some something like 10,000 bitcoin for a pizza. That's a pretty good deal. Everybody says its fake money. Maybe it still is. I don't know. I kind of still think it is. But the market sure doesn't think it is.

Now, in 2010, if you had invested that hundred dollars in Blockbuster, guess how much your money would be worth? The answer is zero. Many of you are investing your life in Blockbuster. Invest your life into God's kingdom. Invest your life into God's kingdom.

Amen? It's a reward that never ends. Become a disciple and transform your life.

Stand with me. My job as a pastor, whether it's Easter or not, is to convince this church to believe what the Bible says and not believe what the world says. To believe what the Bible says and not just what you see. To believe what the Bible says and then it comes to pass. To say something and then it becomes something. To say something and then it becomes something. Amen?

If you just prayed that prayer today, you're a new creation and all of us, and most of us, I think, prayed that prayer. That means that the court of heaven says over you, not guilty. Not guilty. Justified. Just as if I'd never done it. That's what justified means. Justified. Not guilty. Can we say thank you, Jesus (AUDIENCE – thank you, Jesus) and we just believe it, and we're going to declare over ourselves, not what the world says, not what Instagram says or any other thing, we're going to declare over our lives what the word says. Lift your hands with me like this. We declare over our lives the victory of Jesus. Repeat after me, church: I am a child of God (AUDIENCE – I am a child of God). I am a blood bought believer (AUDIENCE – I am a blood bought believer). I am heaven bound (AUDIENCE – I am heaven bound). This church is home (AUDIENCE – this church is home). I am loved here (AUDIENCE – I am loved here). I am loved in your kingdom (AUDIENCE – I am loved in your kingdom). I am forgiven (AUDIENCE – I am forgiven) and I forgive others (AUDIENCE – and I forgive others). My future is bright (AUDIENCE – my future is bright). You know the plans you have for me (AUDIENCE – you know the plans you have for me). I receive them, Lord (AUDIENCE – I receive them, Lord), in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name), amen (AUDIENCE – amen). Amen. Thank you, church. Let's give God glory.

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!