

Chapel 2/14/22 Transcript

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It's a very special place, special time together. First of all, I just want to say thank you, Chaplain Whittet, for letting me be here and to be able to share with your student body. For your staff, as well for Bob. Bill, if you haven't heard Bill play before, Bill makes a piano dance. If you haven't heard, you got to ask Mr. Bill McCoy the play for you some time. He played everything, you know. And so when we were down on staff together with Young Life, Bill can he make everybody dance. You would just be sitting there just talking about, "I love my Jesus," he would make you rock in that way. That's Bill.

First of all. I'm gonna just take this moment, just again, appreciate you, the students who've gone college, but also the staff of Gordon College for this moment in time. And hopefully you will be with me throughout these next few days. Because we got to dive deep a little bit together. And I'm exposed my life to you and exposing my life to you, hopefully, you'll be exposed your life to each other. But more importantly, that you become visible before our living God, because he wants to do something in your life. There was over 900 people gathered together at our Fall HopeFest. And of those 900 people gathered together, most of the time people ask a specific question. And that question is always about hope. And Proverbs 13:12 always teaches us one thing about hope. That when hope is deferred. Anytime hope is deferred, a person loses. It's like a person loses his vision, loses itself. But when the dreams are fulfilled and realized, they become like trees of life.

And so we deal with this issue of hope. How do you help individual who feels hopeless? In this situations? Listen, y'all, this has been a time that we've been living in, like we've lived no other time before. We in the midst of a pandemic, we all realize that. But in the midst of this pandemic, we found that we've had family loss, we've had family trauma that has taken place in our lives, our country has been more divisive, visibly than ever before. We addressed the subject of racism and classism and sexism. We find that there's ongoing uncertainties every single day

we're discovering something different, something new. And we address this question of what happens when my life feels so messed up? How do we know that we can have hope?

Well, I think Paul defines that for us. And I want to take some time to read a passage of Scripture to you together, as we go through this thing in the next few chapels. And I want to go from the thing, living beyond the norm. How do you and I, as believers, followers of Jesus, begin to live beyond the norm, doing things a little bit differently than what we see our culture doing? So I'mma invade your life, we're going to go through four different aspects in this chapter. The first time is, I want to talk about living beyond the norm takes something happening in the inner life. And it is you and I acknowledging first and foremost, there has to be a great exchange that takes place. And we're going to dive into that in a moment. And then tonight, we're going to look at answering the question. And of course, it is a question that you have asked before, or you may ask in your lifetime. And that's simply the question of Jesus, are you truly the one? Or should we be looking for somebody else? And then on Tuesday night, we're gonna dive into the context of how do we live beyond the norm by examining our own trust? And so I'm going to talk to you about the offensiveness of grace, that grace can be offensive. And then we're going to look at on Wednesday morning, if we're going to really live beyond the norm, we're going to have to live understanding that you and I in the body of Christ, have to learn how to live in oneness, and understand that oneness is not sameness. Because if we were all the same, only one of us would be necessary. Are you with me? And so we're gonna dive together in the Scriptures. Let's look at it. If you have your Bibles, will you turn them on or turn to Second Corinthians chapter five? We're gonna look at verses two. I'm read the the context starting at verse 15. But we're only going to focus on verse 21 today.

Second Corinthians chapter five. Begin at verse 15. The Bible says these words, this is from the New Living Translation, "He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves, instead, they will live for Christ who died and was raised for them. So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time, we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view or human perspective, but how differently we know him now. This means that anyone who belong to Christ have become a new person or a new creation. The old life is gone, and a new life has begun. And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ, and God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting their sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors, that God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ, when we plea, come back to God." Now, focus verse, is in verse 21. "For God, made Christ, who never sin, to be the offering for our sin, so that we can be made right with God through Christ." Oh, if I was in the black Baptist church, you'd be shouting about right now.

See, the context of this verse is so powerful for us, that it requires us to not just look at it theologically, but also practically. And not only focus on the inner life, which is significant, but what happens on the inside or to express yourself on the outside. See, I'm a popcorn eater. I enjoy popcorn. But I'm not crazy about the kernels of popcorn. So I don't just sit there, open a bag of popcorn and eat the kernels. That's not what satisfies me. But when I put that bag of popcorn, under the right conditions, when I put it inside the microwave, and I set the timer, and steam begins to heat the bag up, you begin to see that the heat in the steam contracts the kernel of corn, and you get to hear a popping sound, pop, pop, pop, pop. And this hardshell, which was the kernel corn becomes this fluffy popcorn that you and I can enjoy. I'm trusting that in this time of Deep Faith, that you will be placed under the right conditions. And what's on the inside of you will come outside.

Second Corinthians chapter five, verse 21. Jesus says that you and I have had the opportunity to express ourselves by Jesus doing something on our behalf. We call it the great exchange. So the question is, what difference has this exchange made in your life right now? I want this question just to lay with you for a moment as we begin to dive into the passage. Second Corinthians chapter five, verse 21: what difference has this exchange made in your life? Not yesterday, but right now. "For God made Christ." The word "made" in the Greek does not mean creation, but purpose, that God purposed Christ on this earth, to come down on this earth, to serve as our Savior, to serve as our servant, to serve as are satisfied. That he is the one who comes to provide hope and rescues the unbeliever from spending eternity apart from himself. He's the one who heals. He's the one who provides salvation for all of humanity. For this particular reason, Jesus can do something like nobody else, because truly Jesus is like no one else. Follow me: "for God made Christ who never sinned." That that rests with you for a moment, that Jesus didn't come on this earth because he was being punished for sin. Jesus never sinned. Jesus understands sin. He knows how sin works. But he never ever gave in to sin. Sin never even entered his conscience. He's foreign to the experience of sin. And that's why it makes him qualified for you and I. For him to be an offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Now, I took this moment, just to walk through a context that should be very, very familiar with you. Because I want you to understand what this really, really means. That indiscreet exchange that Jesus who knew no sin, would sacrifice himself, and take more of our sin, so that you applied to be made right with God. But that might just be theological. It just might be some aging words on the text for you today. So I need to, I need to make more crap.

So can I have six folks come on up to the stage for me, just for a moment? I won't put you on blast. I promise. Just six individuals to help me in this sermon. Come on up. Come on up. I see that hand, come on up. There you go. Come I need a black Jesus. So come on up. One, two,

that's three, that's four, that's five. All right, you come down for me, I got six. I can spread out like Jesus, you're gonna be right here for me. Rest of y'all gonna be over here. You come on over here sis.

So I need you to understand the importance of this text. You just hold this for me. So, Second Corinthians chapter five, verse 21, is a very, very important passage of scripture. Because if I'm going to talk to the neighborhood that I talked to, we on the East side of Kansas City in the hood. We got to make sure that people understand that when you encounter Christ, he does something different for you than anybody else. I'm a Brooklyn born (?Bed Stuy?) kid. God allowed me to be able to experience some things in my life. And believe me, I've tried a lot of different things in my life. And I was searching, searching for something that has to be different. I'm wanting to experience something different than a pocket change lifestyle that I was living. And then somebody told me, "do you know and understand that when you begin to understand God's word, that God will never write a check, you can't cash up his promises?" So Second Corinthians chapter five, verse 21, helps to open up that theologically for us, so that you can understand it more practically, he knew no sin, would take on our sin, so that we can become the righteousness of God, or to become right with God.

What does that look like? Some of you understand what it's like to be angry, come on over here anger. You get angry. And sometimes you know people like that. They could be like that on campus. They look like they were baptized in lemon juice. Every time you see them, they got a frown on a face. Now there are others who are angry about several different situations in their life. You can feel it. And matter of fact, at one point in time, they alright, they cool with you. The next morning, they explosive. And you wonder, what did I say? That there's an anger that they have inside them, because of the situations or circumstances that they may have experienced, things that they may have encountered. You may know her friends that may not even have shared those things internally and personally with you, but you can feel it, because they always seem to be angry. Jesus says, guess what? I could do something about that. For "he who knew no sin would take on our anger so that you and I can become right with God." That's what Jesus did. Thank you black Jesus. So Jesus says, in order for you and I to really become right with him, I will take your anger. And as a result, you become right with me. That what I have, you now can have.

Some people know individuals who just seem to have a spirit of lying. Matter of fact, every time they open they mouth, you look at each other say, "he lying." You know, and so much so that they lie so well, that they can't even recognize when they lie. It says if their lives are their truth. Jesus, "guess what? I can do something about that. Even in the midst of individuals who struggle with lying." All of us have had experiences where we have struggled with lying. We didn't want to tell the truth, because we didn't want somebody to think something is different

about us. We didn't want to admit why we didn't show up to a meeting, we didn't want to admit why we didn't show up to chapel. So we got to come up with a lie. So we experienced lying. And Jesus says, "guess what I can set you free from that. I can allow you to be authentic in what you want to say and do. I could do something with lying." So he who knew no sin, would take on our sin. So then the great exchange, we can become right with God. He could do something about that, in our lives.

Some of us struggle with our identity. This has been a big deal, both in Christian circles as well as non-Christian circles. Matter of fact, social media constantly tries to tell people who they are. We got people so confused about their identity and who they are. They try to talk like other people, try to dress like other people, try to walk like other people, get tatted because other people got tatted. And we see this all the time that people don't know who they are. They got everybody out there telling them who they are or who they should be, how they ought to feel, what they ought to be like. And Jesus says:

"you know what, if you hang with me, I can tell you who you are. I've designed you, I fashioned you as my masterpiece. I'm perfect in all that I do. So when I create you, I create you with perfection. You don't need to live in confusion, because if I design you to be male and I designed to be female in my perfection, I've done that. So what can you add to perfect? I got you. I know who you are. And if you spend time with me, I'll define you so you won't have to wait for somebody else to define you. He knew no sin, would take on your identity struggles so that you can be right with me and not struggle in your identity. But be complete and understanding that you're the masterpiece that I created. And nobody can add to my masterpiece."

Sexual behaviors in the church, out of church for a while and now. It's amazing to see that even in the church, my Christian brothers out there treating young ladies like they're urinals and I am concerned about that. And I'm concerned about my Christian sisters who dress like they desserts on a menu and then they get upset when a brother want to place an order. I am concerned about that. There are some things that we got to deal with in our own sexual behaviors. We got a culture in chaos. And they trying to redefine sexuality for us. Always crossing lines left and right. What was appropriate before is no longer appropriate. We got individuals that say, "I feel like I'm a female," and they get a chance to participate in female activities. Back in the day I wish that would work. I would have been saying "I feel like a female," so I can get into girls locker room. Come on now.

Our sexual behaviors are being corrupted and co-opted. We got individuals commingling what God has said, with what the culture has said, and we become enculturated. So much so that our brothers and our sisters together aren't treating our ladies like the daughters of the King. And

our ladies keep treating our young men as if they ATM machines. We don't want relationships like that. We have guys out here right now probably, that when you see a young lady from the back you do all you can to break your neck to get a chance to look at the front. And by time you get a chance to look out from the front you get disappointed. You say, "oh man, I wish the back match the front." Then we got young ladies who see these young men, they cut, they chisel, they cracked it. And they said, "that's gonna be my husband." And they said, "Lord, that's gonna be my husband," at least until he opened his mouth, and then everything went on, all bets off. We get this sexual misconduct going up and down. He says, "look, don't be confused. My Word is clear. I created sexual intimacy, so that you can enjoy it in the right conditions. And that was like contingencies in the covenant of relationship in marriage, even in the context of people will say "I do" and "I don't" all in the same breath. Because the culture tells us that marriage is a contract, but the scriptures teaches that the marriage is a covenant.

Angie and I've been married for 32 years on this Thursday. We got Amen. Amen. Amen. Thank you. Five children, three sons, two daughters, I'll show the picture tonight. So we have no problem in our sexual intimacy. And we continue to enjoy it. I'm not worried about her sleeping around with somebody else, and she's not worried about me sleeping around with each other, somebody else. Intimacy, I'm into her, and she into me. And Jesus says, "If you allow me to walk with you, and help you to understand why your body was designed, and the purpose by which it was designed, I can change your hunger and your purpose, and help you to understand that you my design. And that I want you to enjoy intimacy in the right relationships." He knew no sin, became sin for us, so that we can become the righteousness of God.

There are individuals who might be hurting today, we're gonna dive a little deeper into this hurt. Because there's individuals that have hurt, you've grown up with individuals who may have spoken down to you. They tried to destroy the very core of your being, individuals that have said things racially against you or about you. Individuals who have said some things that hurt you, from the very core of your heart. Try to tear your identity apart, try to tear your personhood apart. Individuals that you confided in the most intimate details and then they play CNN news, and they shared it with everybody else. And that hurt you. Individuals that you thought you could trust and they betrayed your trust, and that hurt. You prayed to God, you said, "God here is what I desire for you to do in my life and it seemed like heaven silent." And so you hurt. Jesus says, "I can take all of your scars, and change them into stars." Because he who knew no sin would take on our sin, so that we can become right with God. And that's what the Scriptures teach us in Second Corinthians five. That's why it's so powerful that God can take all those things in our lives. Even though he don't know what sin is because he's never sin, he understands sin. And He can do something. That's why he's become the perfect sacrifice on our behalf and we can take the great exchange, that is, all the stuff we carry. We can give to him right now. In the wonderful exchange. And what belongs to him, belongs to us.

You know, I hate sometimes going to the dentist, because the dentist, you know right? The dentist sometimes will do more than what I want them to do. You know oftentimes, if I have a toothache, I want to go to the dentist and I want him to deal or her to deal with my toothache. But somehow when I open my mouth, they gotta go all throughout my mouth. They got to touch every different tooth, and I'm like: "every tooth is not hurting only one is! Why do you have to keep prodding through my mouth? I just need you to address the pain." And the dentist does always said same thing, "listen Marvin. We're going to address your pain and I'm concerned about your pain. But I'm also concerned about the whole hygiene of your mouth. What's causing your pain." In the great exchange Jesus says, "I hear your pain. I know what you're struggling with. I know what you're dealing with, and I'm concerned about that. But I'm also concerned about the whole hygiene of your life. Living beyond the norm starts with the inner life of understanding, first and foremost, because without transformation in the great exchange what Jesus has done for us, to set us free. .