

**Oct. 3, 2021**  
**Southview Bible Church**  
**Dedication Sunday**  
**“What It’s All About!”**

**Pray:**

This is a historic day in the life of Southview Bible Church. We will be celebrating tonight how God has led us to this point. But this morning I want to review for us **“What It’s All About”**. Why do we exist? What is the purpose of Southview Bible Church as we move on from this historic milestone.

When God’s people Israel came out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses it was a picture of **Redemption** as seen in the Exodus. Then the people were taught how they should live but they failed to walk by faith and go into the land of Promise. Consequently, that entire generation died in the wilderness with the exception of Joshua and Caleb who were men of faith.

As a new generation emerged and Moses was getting towards the end of his life, he shared with them what we know as the book of Deuteronomy. The word **“Deuteronomy”** means **“second law”**. It involved a repeating of the Law given earlier at Mount Sinai and was now reiterated to a new generation which was about to enter the promised land.

This teaching underscored to this new generation the core issues of their faith and what was important for them to know in terms of living for God.

**Slide # 1**

**Deuteronomy 32:45–47 (NKJV)**

**45** Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel,

**46** and he said to them: **“Set your hearts on all the words”** which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law.

**47** For it is not a futile thing for you, **because it is your life**, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.”

Today I want to review with you what your very life as God’s people is to be all about. These are the fundamental truths that should guide us as a church as we go into the future – come what may.

**1) It’s all about God!**

The Bible is a book about GOD! It begins there with the very first verse of the Bible saying, “***In the beginning God***” (Gen. 1:1). Furthermore, it says, “In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth.” God is the CREATOR of all!

And what do we find at the end of the book – the last book in the Bible. Again, we find that God is the CREATOR Who makes all things new.

### **Slide # 2**

#### **Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)**

**1** In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth.

#### **Revelation 21:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Then He who sat on the throne said, “**Behold, I make all things new.**” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

God created the world for His own purposes – for His own glory! God created people for Himself – to bring glory to Him. Again, back to the review of Deuteronomy, which by the way was the book Jesus quoted from more than any other in terms of what we have recorded in the NT.

Deut. 6:4-5 is called the “***Shema***” which is the great CONFESSION of Judaism which pious Jews recite twice daily – in the morning and in the evening.

### **Slide # 3**

#### **Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (NKJV)**

**4** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

**5** You shall **love the LORD your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

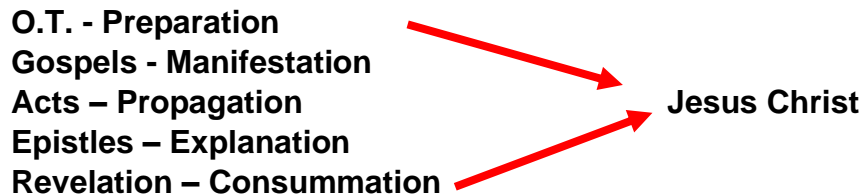
In Matthew 22:38 Jesus said to love God is the first and greatest commandment. We were created for God and God is to be our first and greatest love. God is to have our all!

It’s all about God, but as NT believers we note that God has revealed Himself most fully, finally, and completely in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Slide # 4****1 John 5:20 (NKJV)**

**20** And we know that the **Son of God has come and has given us an understanding**, that we may **know Him** who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is **the true God and eternal life**.

Thus, as revealed by God it's all about Jesus! For us as true believers it's not all about rituals, relics, and religion. It's about relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The Bible is a book about Jesus!

**Slide # 5****Slide # 6****The Centerpiece is Jesus!**

**Luke 24:27 (NKJV)** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them **in all the Scriptures** the things concerning Himself.

*“The Lord Jesus gave them the great key to the understanding of Scripture – that He Himself is its subject and that in Him the entire Book finds its unity.” – C.I. Scofield*

**Hebrews 10:7 (NKJV)** Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—**In the volume of the book it is written of Me**—To do Your will, O God.’ ”

**Revelation 19:10 (NKJV)** And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the **testimony of Jesus**. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

In one form or another Christ is seen throughout the Bible. In the Old Testament we have Him pictured in the sacrifices and referenced in the prophecies, etc. In the New Testament we have Him fulfilling the O.T. **Scriptures and bringing all the strands of prophecy and typology to their intended end.**

All the way through the Bible we see the theme of REDEMPTION as found ultimately in the Person of Christ our Savior. The word “redemption” means to deliver by paying a price.

The Bible paints one consistent picture that the price of sin required a blood payment. In Genesis, when Adam and Eve sinned, God provided “tunics of skin” for clothing (Gen. 3:21). Abel brought an animal offering to God which was acceptable (Gen. 4:4). In Exodus we have the Passover Lamb (Ex. 12). In Leviticus we have the sacrificial system and blood given for atonement on the altar (Lev. 17:11). In Joshua we find Rahab binding a scarlet cord in her window (Josh. 2:18). Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 graphically portray the blood sacrifice of Christ. In the gospels we have Christ introduced as the Lamb of God (cf. Jn. 1:29) followed by His crucifixion, considered in great detail. Acts propagates the story and the epistles further explain it. Revelation, 28 times speaks of Jesus in reference to the “Lamb” and concludes with Him coming “clothed with a robe dipped in blood” (Rev. 19:13).

Let us never forget that it’s all about God as revealed ultimately in the Person of Christ. I often say, “***It’s all about Jesus!***” because indeed it is.

### **Slide # 7**

#### **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)**

**31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**

#### **Philippians 1:20 (NKJV)**

**20** according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but **with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.**

***2) It’s all about God’s TRUTH.***

### **Slide # 8**

#### **Isaiah 40:8 (NKJV)**

**8** The grass withers, the flower fades, But **the word of our God stands forever.**”

#### **John 12:48 (NKJV)**

**48** He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—**the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**

### ***The Bible***

This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good is its design and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is given you in life and will be opened in the judgment and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents. --***Robert Cleaver Chapman***

Let us never forget that it's all about the Bible. We are called **Southview BILBE Church** for a reason. We must forever and ever maintain a HIGH and REVERENT view of the Scriptures. When the Bible speaks – God speaks! When the Bible speaks that ends the argument because the Bible speaks with FINAL and ABSOLUTE authority. Our concern is to rightly divide the Word of truth and to consistently apply it!

It's all about God's TRUTH, but I want to zero specifically in on GOSPEL TRUTH. After the resurrection of Christ, the Bible says that God "***now commands all men everywhere to repent***" because judgment day is coming in which God will judge all by the Man Whom He raised from the dead; namely Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30-31).

### **Slide # 9**

#### **2 Thessalonians 1:8–9 (NKJV)**

**8** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those **who do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**9** These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Our GOSPEL message has a two-fold prong. It's all about the PERSON of Christ and the WORK of Christ. It's all about Who Jesus is as LORD and SAVIOR. As Savior Jesus died for all our sins – as Lord over all He rose again the third day. That is the GOSPEL!

### **Slide # 10**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV)**

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel**...

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures,

4 and that **He was buried**, and that **He rose again** the third day according to the Scriptures,

#### **1 Corinthians 2:2 (NKJV)**

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ** [the PERSON] and **Him crucified** [the WORK].

And note that our message to the world is a message of GRACE! The gospel above all things is a gospel of GRACE. And GRACE is first and foremost all about the CROSS. “***Jesus paid it all – all to Him we owe!***” That's GRACE! Grace is God's unmerited favor. We don't deserve it. We don't earn it. We don't work for it. It's all GRACE. This message of GRACE is so serious that Paul in Gal. 1:8-9 gives the harshest warning of any NT writer concerning those who teach otherwise.

### **Slide # 11**

#### **Galatians 1:6–9 (NKJV)**

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the **grace of Christ**, to a **different gospel**,

7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to **pervert the gospel** of Christ.

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed**.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, **let him be accursed**.

The world of religions can be broken up in to two categories – a works salvation and a grace salvation. The whole world is trying to work their way UP to God, Christianity is God coming DOWN to us in the Person of Christ because we could never get to God on our own.

During a British conference on comparative religions experts from around the world debated what, if any belief was unique to the Christian faith.

The debate continued for quite some time until C.S. Lewis entered the room. When he learned that they were debating Christianity's unique contribution among world religions Lewis responded, "Oh, that's easy. It's grace." – *Phillip Yancey*

Paul summarized the entirety of his life's mission with these words.

### **Slide # 12**

#### **Acts 20:24 (NKJV)**

**24** But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and **the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.**

Grace and works are mutually exclusive. You are either saved by your works or by the grace of Christ. You can't mingle the two. It's one or the other.

### **Slide # 13**

#### **Romans 4:5 (NKJV)**

**5** But to him who **does not work** but **believes** on Him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith** is accounted for righteousness,

#### **Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)**

**8** For by **grace** [the cross] you have been saved **through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,  
**9 not of works**, lest anyone should boast.

No one can brag on what they have done to get to heaven for that would take away from Christ's finished work on the cross. He ALONE is Savior! He alone died on the cross! He alone gets ALL the glory for our salvation.

#### **Galatians 6:14 (NKJV)**

**14** **But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.**

**Slide # 14**

Which one of the following describes what a person must trust in to get to heaven?



The only right answer is CHRIST ALONE! That is the GRACE answer! Christ is our all in all! (Col. 3:11)

**There is an old fable** about a man who died and stood before Saint Peter who was evaluating people to see whether they would be allowed into heaven. Peter said in order to get in, you need 1,000 points. The man said, “I have gone to church all my life – was a faithful member in my church.” Peter said, “That equals 1 point.” The man continued, “I have been faithful to my wife and was a good father.” Peter replied, “You are now up to 2 points.”

Flabbergasted, the man said, “I have been a good community servant, I gave to the Salvation Army, I helped out in my neighborhood and was involved in good causes in my community.....” Peter said, “You are now up to 3 points.” The guy then blurted out, “**At this rate**, the only way I am going to get into heaven is BY THE GRACE OF GOD.” Peter said, “**That is worth 1,000 points – come on in.**”

GRACE - G.R.A.C.E is God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.

My mother was on hospice care and immediately when she died we called the hospice people to come. A young man came. Mom had just died and he was on one side of the bed and I was on the other. He tried to comfort me by saying she was now in heaven and that she deserved it. I agreed she was in heaven, but told him that she didn’t deserve it. This young man thought I was totally disrespecting my dead mother who lie between us. I tried to explain to him that she was saved ONLY by grace and that she was a trophy of GRACE.

And God has delivered His precious truth to His people the church (that is true believers in Christ). We have a stewardship responsibility to give out the whole gospel to the whole world.



**Slide # 15****1 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV)**

**15** but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the **church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

The church is described as “***the pillar*** (or support) ***and ground*** (or foundation) ***of the truth***”.

God has entrusted to the church the very stewardship of His truth! Our great calling is to uphold, promote, and defend THE TRUTH. Someone has well said the church is “***God’s truth center***”. The church has been given the responsibility of upholding the truth before a watching world. The church is called by God to unwaveringly maintain and support the truth. God has placed this responsibility upon the church. We are to safeguard the truth! We are the defenders, the upholders of the faith! We are to earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

The book of Revelation in the first three chapters deals extensively with Church Truth, but then the Church is missing. It is entirely missing in the judgment chapters of Rev. 6-18? **Why?** Well, because God has not appointed the church to wrath but rather to obtain deliverance (via the rapture) which is why we are currently waiting for Jesus from heaven who will deliver us from the wrath to come (cf. 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9).

However, the entire book of Revelation, including the long judgment section in Rev. 6-18 is given to the churches (cf. Rev. 1:4; 22:16). Why would Christ give this judgment section to the churches if it doesn’t apply to them? Well, because it is our job to warn the world of coming judgment! Just like Noah who as a preacher of righteousness warned the world of the coming flood judgment so we also are called to warn the world. It’s our job!

**Slide # 16****Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)**

**17** And the **Spirit** and the **bride** say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

God has entrusted THE TRUTH into our care, and it is our responsibility to uncompromisingly uphold it and present it to the world. And for the record being faithful to the Word means we hold to the fact it is inspired, inerrant and all sufficient for all spiritual needs (cf. 2 Tim. 3:15-17).

### **3) *It's all about people!***

It's not just about programs, activities, and busyness.

Have you read Genesis 1-2 – the creation account? After each creation event God saw that it was good. But only after He created people in His own image did God see that it was “**very good**.” Mankind is the crowing work of God's creation. He cares about people – all people.

In the OT God chose Israel to be His special people above all peoples of the world (cf. Ex. 19:5). But even so they were to be His special witness to the rest of the world because God cares about the whole world.

In that mother of all covenants – the Abrahamic Covenant we see that God desires to bless all the families of the world.

#### **Slide # 17**

##### **Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)**

**3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you **all the families of the earth** shall be blessed.”

Ultimately this has the Jewish Messiah in view Who came to be the Savior of the world. But why?

#### **Slide # 18**

##### **John 3:16 (NKJV)**

**16** For **God so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

God hasn't forgotten His covenant promises to Israel. They will yet be fulfilled in due time, but in the meantime, God is building a forever family of believers in Jesus of both Jews and Gentiles that make up the true Church. In the end there is going to be people from all over the world of every tribe, tongue, and nation before the throne giving praise to God.

#### **Slide # 19**

##### **Revelation 5:9–10 (NKJV)**

**9** And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have **redeemed us to God by Your blood** Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

**10** And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

God cares about all people – and therefore we should too! Paul in 1 Tim. 2:1-4 says we should pray for all people because God desires all people to come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. In the end its not ultimately about a building or brick and mortar (although we are thankful for this tool) – in the end it is ultimately about PEOPLE.

This is the Church Age and Christ is building His Church Family (cf. Mt. 16:18). If we want to be on board with what He is doing, then we will seek to be useful in seeing His forever family grow. That’s what it’s all about!

#### ***4) It’s all about LOVE!***

I am not talking about “love” as the world defines love – which is self-centered and so often lust oriented. Love as defined by the Bible is other-centered. True love is the fruit of Spirit. True love seeks the other person’s highest good and gives of itself sacrificially. True love is God-oriented and other centered.

What defines the world is feudin, fussin, and fightin!

#### **Slide # 20**

##### **Titus 3:3 (NKJV)**

**3** For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, **living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.**

This is what we used to be. But now for us as true Christians the defining trait in our lives is to be Christ-like LOVE for one another.

#### **Slide # 21**

##### **John 13:34–35 (NKJV)**

**34** A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another; as I have loved you**, that you also love one another.

**35 By this all will know that you are My disciples**, if you have love for one another.”

This is to be the defining trait of the disciples of Christ. We want to be a Church that uncompromisingly holds to the truth of God but at the same time we always want to share the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). If our service is not done out of love it counts for nothing. Works done out of love is what is going to be rewarded on judgment day.

### **Slide # 22**

**Philippians 2:14–15 (NKJV)**

**14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,**

**15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

**1 Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV)**

**13** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but **the greatest of these is love.**

We are not saved by loving, but rather we are justified by faith. However, if our faith is real, it will demonstrate itself in Christ-like love.

### **Slide # 23**

**Galatians 5:6 (NKJV)**

**6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but **faith working through love.**

It is faith working through love that results in holy living. It is faith working through love that results in acceptable service to God. True godly love is to be our motivation in everything. The fruit of true love will last forever – it will have an eternal reward.

The Church at Ephesus was a really strong hard working doctrinal church. And yet as Christ evaluated it – it had ONE major flaw. It lacked love!

### **Slide # 24**

**Revelation 2:2–5 (NKJV)**

**2** “I know your **works**, your **labor**, your **patience**, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have **tested** those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

**3** and you have **persevered** and have **patience**, and have **labored** for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

**4** Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have **left your first love**.

**5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent** and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

The Church at Ephesus was a really good and strong church in almost every way. The one thing it lacked was love. And that one flaw was so serious that Christ said unless you repent and get right I am going to remove your lampstand – that is your witness light. If the Church didn’t get back to LOVE as their priority Christ would remove them - and He did.

### ***5) It’s all about eternity!***

What matters in life is what will matter in eternity! What really matters is what matters to God. Jesus said don’t lay up your treasures on earth – lay them up in heaven (Mt. 6:19-21). Paul said we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out (cf. 1 Tim. 6:6-8). God help us to live in light of eternity and to maintain an eternal perspective.

### **Slide # 25**

#### **1 Corinthians 3:11–15 (NKJV)**

**11** For no other **foundation** can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**12** Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

**13** **each one’s work will become clear**; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the **fire will test each one’s work**, of what sort it is.

**14** If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

**15** If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Live for eternity. Live for an audience of One – that is for God, because in the end it only matters what God the judge of all will say! God’s evaluation is the only one that will matter on judgment day!

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. ***Aim at Heaven and you will get earth “thrown in”: aim at earth and you will get neither.***

– C.S. Lewis

Jonathan Edwards rightly prayed, “***Lord, stamp eternity on my eyeballs!***”

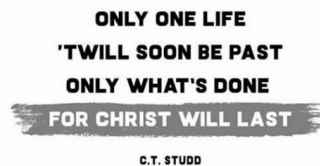
### **Slide # 26**

#### ***What It’s All About!***

- 1) It’s all about GOD (Jesus).
- 2) It’s all about God’s TRUTH (gospel truth).
- 3) It’s all about PEOPLE (not stuff).
- 4) It’s all about LOVE (not self).
- 5) It’s all about ETERNITY (purpose bigger than now).

As a boy my mother drilled into me this truth into my head!

### **Slide # 27**



Living for Jesus – that in the end what it’s truly all about!

### **Slide # 28**

#### **Ephesians 3:20–21 (NKJV)**

**20** Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,  
**21** to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.