

# “Live as if Jesus Rules and Eternity is Real” // Colossians 2:8–3:5 // First #3

## Video

It’s important for you to understand that in this season we have a **primary goal/secondary goal...**

**Our primary goal is reflected in that testimony** you just saw: it is that **100%** of you make a commitment that would **reflect Jesus and his kingdom having the first place** in your life.

You know, sometimes in these things we may be **tempted to think**, “Well, I don’t have much, **what difference** will my small amount make?”

- But see, this **whole thing is not about supplying the financial needs of God!** It’s about God and his Kingdom having the right place in our hearts!
  - In **Mark 12 there’s the famous story** about Jesus commending a woman for putting 2 mites in the offering.
  - It was **terribly small** amount of money: “mite” was the tiniest money unit around; “mite” literally meant “shaving.”
  - It would be like throwing in a couple of pennies when the offering goes around. It would have made no difference when they counted later.
  - Yet Jesus said that **her gift mattered more** in the Kingdom of God than all the large gifts that the rich were dropping in—

Works consulted:

“When You Have a Little,” Dave Stone  
“Mortification,” Joby Martin  
“No More Excuses,” James MacDonald  
“Living the Risen Life,” John MacArthur  
“Christ Our Life,” Tim Keller

and God could do more with it—because **hers, unlike theirs, represented** her first and best.

- **You see, to God** 200 million is no more impressive than 2 mites.
- God doesn’t **have financial needs—he can do whatever he wants with any amount**—he spoke the worlds into existence with a word and fed 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish—the point is **what the gift represents** about the state of the heart.
- Think about this: *Some gifts are valuable because of the good they can do in the world; others are valuable for the statement they make about the heart of the giver and the worth of God to whom they are given.*
- So, our question is: What represents *for you* a definitive declaration that Jesus and his kingdom are getting your 1<sup>st</sup> and your best?

**So, our PRIMARY GOAL is that 100% of us**—from the oldest to the youngest, the richest to the poorest, the newest Christian to the most seasoned one—do something that represents Jesus getting the first and best.

**That’s our PRIMARY goal.** That said, I **do want you to understand a few of the tangible steps** we believe God has called us to take in this season. It is to **commit \$75 million over the next 2 years** to our mission **to make disciple-making disciples, reach our city, and reach the world.** Let me give you a brief synopsis of them:

### **1. MAKING DISCIPLE-MAKING DISCIPLES**

- a. The Summit is **responsible for the discipleship** of approximately 14,000 people (with a weekly attendance of 11K, that’s about that many people call this church home).

- b. In the last year, we've **baptized 608** people and over **1,300 have gone** through the membership process.
- c. Our goal is to turn neighbors and guests into disciple-making disciples, and we do that by supporting **Adult Discipleship and Small Groups, Family Ministries, College Ministries, and all Supportive Ministries**

## 2. REACHING OUR CITY

- a. **When we became a multi-site church on accident in 2007**, our vision was that rather than building one gargantuan facility in the middle of the Triangle that people would drive from **30–45** minutes to get to, we'd build smaller facilities in local areas: **We said, "Stay where you are..."**
- b. Here we are now, 10 years later, **11 campuses across the Triangle.**
- c. **Listen:** By the sovereignty of God, we **live in one of the fastest-growing** and most strategic cities in the nation, and by God's grace we're going to continue to reach more people through new and expanded campuses.
- d. Our hope: a **permanent facility 15 min** from everybody in the Triangle.
- e. And, sometime in the **Fall/Winter of next year**, because of your generosity, we are going to open our new 1800 seat Capital Hills campus. **(PIC?)**
- f. (This is going to **replace the current North Raleigh** campus and some of the BCC will go there, too, though the Brier Creek Campus will stay fully operational)
- g. It's **going to allow those 2 campuses**, both of which have been stuck for some time because of space limitations, to grow again.
- h. **I always say:** 3 car garage.
- i. **Listen: Reaching people** is essential to who we are as a church.
- j. **I know, we say it's about sending capacity, not seating capacity**, but that **only means that our job is not done** when we get someone in a Summit seat.

- k. But we **have to reach them** before we send them.
- l. Jesus said **more joy over 99 than the 1...** If that is what brings Jesus joy, that's what we want to be about. That's who we are.
- m. **But, that's not all.** This January, we're launching **our 12th Campus...** Let's take a second to count them off...in order of their launch:
  - North Durham Campus: these are our OG's (original gospel gangsta's)
  - Then, the Brier Creek Campus
  - Downtown Durham Campus
  - Summit en Espanol Campus
  - North Raleigh Campus - our future Capital Hills Campus
  - Apex Campus
  - Chapel Hill Campus
  - Blue Ridge Campus
  - Alamance Campus
  - Men's Prison Camus
  - Women's Prison Campus
  - COMING JANUARY 13, 2019: Garner Campus - Pre-launch services have already started with several hundred people involved.
  - **Some amazing stories around this launch: *Before the launch services started happening... we got on email from a lady...*** " I am looking to ask a question about future campuses of the Summit. Can you point me in the right direction? We have been praying now for many years for God to bring Summit closer to us in Garner. We feel like God is moving in our community so I wanted to check on that.
  - **That was June 5, when we had already decided to do it and hadn't told anybody. We replied: "Come on. You've heard something. We are planning that. How'd you know?"**
  - **She responded: "Praise God!! No I did not know this! I have been praying for 10 years for a campus in Garner and like to check in every couple of years. I'm the squeaky wheel who prays until God gives in! I know**

*dozens of people who are unchurched currently who are open to the gospel and ready for Garner to have a gospel teaching church. It brings tears to my eyes to see God's faithfulness in this!! I have a list of over 50 people who are in a contact list for if this were to happen so I could let them know. I was born and raised in Garner and live there now so I am ready to help with anything and location and everything else!*

- **We're going to launch it in South Garner High School this January. That's another amazing story:** Every high school in Wake County is unavailable. But this was a new one and before it was even public knowledge they reached out to us because of our reputation with Cary High School through ServeRDU and asked if we would consider coming! It **just happened** to be exactly where we needed it to be!
- n. **Also**, your generosity is making it possible for us to start transitioning some of our mobile campuses meeting in places like high schools to move to more permanent facilities—like the **North Durham Campus**... Again, these are **the OG's** who have been a mobile campus now for several years, and **through your generosity we've been able to purchase land.**) Once we complete the project at Capital Hills, we want to be in a strong financial position to move forward with the construction project for the North Durham Campus permanent facility, and others—like **Chapel Hill and Alamance County**—as they become available.

### **3. REACHING THE WORLD**

- a. You know that we have a goal of planting 1000 churches in our lifetime, and specifically we have a goal to plan **12 churches in 12 ACC college** cities in the next 12 years!
  - b. If I could just say, this **proves God loves the ACC** more than the SEC... (LOGIC). We've already planted the **first one** in Charlottesville, and

- c. **On top of that, we want to plant 10 more churches in North America** over the next 2 years.
  - i. **BTW: On Monday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Brier Creek Campus** we're hosting interest meetings for our church plants in **Brooklyn, London, and Auburn**. This is your opportunity to hear from our church planters, find out what joining a church plant looks like, and show your support.
  - ii. If you're **interested, you got something on the way** in; pull that out, fill out the bottom, and drop it in the buckets latter in this service.
- d. We are also **establishing a Center for Work and Mission to develop mission training** for business professionals.
- e. And we are expanding **ServeRDU** to involve more area churches so that it can be an even greater witness for the body of Christ to our community.
- f. We also want to **send 2000 Summit members** out on short term mission trips (BTW: sent 1000 on short term trips this year!)
- g. And, to send **another 100 members** to serve on long term teams. (**Impact: One lady led 34 women to Christ in a closed Muslim country over the last year.**)

These are the things we feel like God has called us to do, and to accomplish them will take **\$75 million in generous giving over 2 years**, which is a big number, but, again, this is **what we believe God wants to us to do...** and we believe that his kingdom and the souls of people are worth it.

If you agree with that, say **AMEN!**

STAND for PRAYER

So, that's **what we feel like God has called us** to do, but again our focus is not on that: Our **primary goal of 100% of our people make a**

**commitment** that represents putting first in their lives because Jesus is FIRST and he WENT FIRST for us.

So, to that end, please open your **Bibles to...**

## Colossians 2:8–3:5

We're going to **press in a little farther today into Paul's letter** to the Colossians as he instructs the Colossians on how to **put Jesus first**—how to make him **pre-eminent**—in their lives.

I told you in our 1<sup>st</sup> week that one of the problems **Paul addresses in this letter** is his concern that the culture of Colossae had warped the Colossian believers' understanding of God.

- **Colossae was famous**, as I told you, for its vast array of temples and superstitious practices.
- It was the **virtual Golden Corral** of god options in the 1<sup>st</sup> century world—you could find temples and religious practices for whatever need you felt at the moment—better health, fertility, prosperity, protection—there was even a temple to the **sewer god**—I've always wondered what worship was like in that temple.

**So the religious custom in Colossae was to assemble** whatever package of superstitions and rituals you wanted to fit your needs. **Again**, “Build a Bear” theology...

Well, the **Christians in Colossae** understood they were **not to worship** pagan temples, of course, but **that general mentality** of religious pluralism had influenced their approach toward God.

- So, **many of them assumed** that in addition to faith in Jesus, you needed other things—other rituals, other practices—to gain spiritual stability and spiritual power.
- Jesus was, of course, was **essential to the package**. You needed him for **eternal salvation**—but to **really thrive in life**,—you needed other things, too.

- **Furthermore**, many of these Colossian Christians had **grown up as Jews under the law**, and many of them believed that if you wanted to be really right with, and in touch with his power, you **had to observe** a lot of the old Jewish laws and traditions.

THINK OF IT LIKE THIS: The **Colossians had a “Jesus and...” mentality**. They **didn't discard Jesus (on the contrary, 2:5, he called their faith “firm”)**, they just thought they needed other stuff in addition to him.

- **Jesus and... observance of the law.**
- **Jesus and... mystical rituals.**

Paul's answer in Colossians is a **simple and emphatic: NO. Christ is enough!** In Christ, he says, we possess the fullness of God. **Christ** showed the ultimate love; conquered our ultimate enemy, and now sits at the ultimate place of power. **So, once you have him**, you have it all.

### **Jesus + nothing = everything!**

He **starts to unpack** this idea in 2:8, so let's take a look: <sup>8</sup> **Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world (i.e. worldly ways—human ways, fleshly ways—to obtain power and gain salvation), rather than Christ.** <sup>9</sup> **For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ,** <sup>10</sup> **and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.** (So, IOW, **once you have the fullness of God in Christ**, what else could you lack? What other spiritual blessing—or portal to blessing—would you need?)

**And then**, Paul goes on to **address both those** who look to Jewish traditions and those who look to mystical practices to complete their spiritual lives: <sup>16</sup> **Therefore, don't let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day.** <sup>17</sup> **These are a shadow of what was to come; the substance is Christ.** (Jews)

Mystical practices:<sup>18</sup> Let no one condemn you by delighting in ascetic practices and the worship of angels, claiming access to a visionary realm.

**Vs. 20 is his driving point:** <sup>20</sup> If you died with Christ to the elements of this world (*again, the way **the world** seeks security and power*), why do you live as if you still belonged to the world?

**3** So (his conclusion) if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated *at the right hand of God*. (The right hand of God is the ultimate place of authority and power. He's telling us to **live in light of the fact** that the **Savior we now serve** sits in the ultimate place of power—so what other help do we need?)

<sup>2</sup> Set your minds (therefore) on things above, not on earthly things.

<sup>3</sup> For you died (i.e. when Christ died, **with him died all our attempts** at self-salvation), **and your life is hidden with Christ in God...\*** So longer should we be **looking to earthly things** to make life work! We should **look to Christ!**

- We **now possess the One who is himself the fullness of God**. He showed the ultimate love; conquered the ultimate enemy, and now sits at the ultimate place of power.
- **If you have him**, you have it all.
- EVERYBODY SAY IT: **Jesus + nothing = everything**

That's the **message of Colossians!**

(The Meaning for Us in *FIRST*)

Now, the *particular* issues the Colossians struggled with and what we struggle with are different: They were really **superstitious** (we are only a little -stitious). *But we* typically **express a "Jesus and..." mentality** by thinking that in order really to **make life work—in order to be happy and secure**—we need other things in addition to obedience to Jesus.

- **We don't reject Jesus, of course**—Jesus is **important** to us, just like he was to the Colossians—we depend on him for **eternal salvation**—but to really make life work we need other things as well—the chief of which, as I'll show you, ends up being money.

**To us, Paul would say just the same:** Christ is enough. Once you **have him you have it all**.

- **Just as a Christian doesn't need to have multiple gods**, they also don't need to have multiple priorities in life—they have one God, and one priority—pleasing him. **He comes FIRST**. And when he is first, everything else falls into place.

The **Colossians thought of their lives in buckets**: Over here you had the eternal salvation bucket. You needed Jesus for that. But **over here** you had things like provision and satisfaction and a happy marriage—You needed **other things** for that. Paul says, "No, **Jesus is the whole bucket**. Put him first and he'll take care of everything."

As I noted, in our day, maybe **the primary place** we express this "Jesus and..." mentality is in relation to money.

I read a book recently called **God and Money** (written by two Harvard Business School guys who became Christians and that **made them rethink** everything they'd ever thought about money), and it talked about the different things people look to for money. They said **when it comes to money**, people tend to have one of **3 different relationships**: (As I read these descriptions, try to identify which one is you. Or if it describes the person next to you just start pointing at them:

- **Spender**: These people believe **money's greatest value** is adding enjoyment today, so they spend their money on consumption, seeking maximum enjoyment in the moment. They **may save** some (if they are responsible)—but money is primarily about **adding pleasure in the moment**. Spenders maximize **value today**.

- **Saver:** A saver is someone, by contrast, who thinks that money's greatest value is providing security for tomorrow. Thus, they strive to limit consumption, focusing instead on increased wealth accumulation over time. **Whereas** spenders view money as a tool for pleasure today, savers view money as a tool of **security—or flexibility**—for tomorrow.
- **Steward:** These people see money as only a temporary gift of God to be **used for the purposes** of God. Sure, they use some money to provide for their own needs, and they **save responsibly** for the future, **but—here's the thing**—they **INTENTIONALLY limit both consumption and wealth-building**, focusing instead of giving the most money they can to  **blessing other people through the Kingdom of God**.<sup>1</sup>

**Did you figure out which one you most naturally were?** Let's take a little quiz to help make it clear<sup>2</sup>:

- **I'm going to ask you some questions** and give you **3 choices** of what best describes you: A, B, or C.
- **I'll give the answer key up front:** "A" corresponds to Spender; "B" corresponds to Saver; "C" corresponds to Steward.
- **(If you have your FIRST book**, write down A, B, and C and keep tally marks for how often you give one of the answers. If not, just listen, it's easy to follow and you'll detect a pattern quickly.)

1. Which of these excites you more?
  - a. A four-star vacation across Europe.
  - b. Maxing out all retirement accounts for the year.
  - c. Dinner with your pastor, who expresses heartfelt thanks for your sacrificial support of a successfully launched, new ministry.
2. When you were a child, what was your tendency\* with new money you received?

- a. To buy new toys or spend on experiences as soon as you got it.
  - b. To save it in a piggy bank or savings account.
  - c. To spend on or give to others, your church, or charities.
3. You hear about a man who, at 70, has managed his middle-class income through meager living and careful savings, with a current net worth of \$8 million. Your first thought is:
    - a. What a waste! Spending it would have been more fun!
    - b. Wow, he really did well. I hope I can do that, too.
    - c. He may have missed some key opportunities to experience the joy of generosity.
  4. Success looks like...
    - a. Experiencing great food and travel, living comfortably, and driving a luxury car.
    - b. Retiring at 50.
    - c. Extending payoff of your mortgage and forgoing some luxuries in order to sponsor a missionary family.
  5. Your annual bonus is twice as much as you thought it would be. What do you first think?
    - a. I'm headed out shopping/on a vacation.
    - b. I'm putting this on the mortgage!
    - c. Thank God for this provision. I can't wait to give a chunk of this away.
  6. The spending in my life is:
    - a. Effortless—I love it.
    - b. Bothersome—I wish I could spend less.
    - c. Controlled—I feel good about the way it's managed.
  7. The saving in my life is:
    - a. Bothersome—It's an inconvenience that gets in the way of having fun.
    - b. Effortless—I love building wealth.

<sup>1</sup> Cortines and Baumer, *God and Money*, 113.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* 115–16

- c. Purposeful—I have healthy and reasonable goals toward which I’m carefully working. Beyond that, I plan to give all excess away.
8. The giving in my life is:
- a. Obligatory.
  - b. Formulaic.
  - c. Joyfully overflowing.

<sup>2</sup>“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things” means **look at money as neither satisfaction** (spender) **nor security** (saver), because **Christ is both of those things** for you (*I mean: **Right?** he’s the fullness of God and sits at the right hand of God*) and **looking instead at your money as a temporary tool** given to you by God to be used for the purposes of his kingdom.

- **Yes, you will use some** of it to take care of your needs. And it will bring **some joy** to your life.
- And yes, **you’ll even save** for the future.
- But you will **limit both your spending and saving** because you find satisfaction and security in Christ and see money primarily as a **stewardship** given to you by God as a tool for his kingdom.

Let me give you a **really simple translation** of what Paul means when he says, “Set your minds on things above and not things of the earth”:

**Live as if Jesus rules and eternity is real.**

**You know these things.** It’s not like (for most of you) that you *didn’t* know these things coming in here this weekend and you are just learning them. (“Jesus rules. Did you know that, honey?”)

**The problem is that we are forgetful** of them. And **forgetfulness of them**, Jesus said, is **the primary thing** that makes people go awry with money.

Let me present **2 of Jesus’s parables** (really quickly) where he makes this point. This was a big theme of his with money:

**The first one is from Luke 12.** Jesus is approached by a couple of guys who are in a money dispute and whose lives, he perceives, are too wrapped up in how much they own.

*And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”*

*He told them a parable, saying (BTW, I’m going to retell this parable in modern day terms. This is also from that book God and Money<sup>3</sup>), “The stock options belonging to a manager vested after a major run-up in share price, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I already have enough saved to send my kids to college, my house is paid off, and I already max out my 401k every year!’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will open an investment account and create a passive income portfolio, and I’ll exercise my options and put the money there. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have a big enough portfolio to be financially independent; retire early, plan some vacations, play golf.””*

*But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the portfolio you’ve built, what use will it be then? So is the one who endlessly builds his net worth and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:15–21)*

**What good is all that money**—all that saving—if you enter into eternity, the ultimate existence, with nothing?! **Set your mind** on things above not on things of the earth!

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 120–21

The 2<sup>nd</sup> parable is a really interesting one from Luke 16. Let me retell this one in my own words...<sup>4</sup>

There was once an accounts manager for a really rich guy who was given his 2-week notice. (He got fired). So, he was like, “What am I going to do? I’m too young to start in a new career, and I’ve grown accustomed to buying \$5 Starbucks drinks every day and there is **no way I’m going back to Maxwell House.**” So, according to Jesus, he **has a brilliant idea**: he calls up all his boss’s clients who still owe him money, and the conversation goes like this: “I see here that you owe my boss \$100,000. I tell you what. If you’ll pay \$25,000 right now, I’ll give you an official ‘debt settled’ certificate and we’ll just call it even” (because this guy technically still has this legal authority to do it, since he is still on his 2-week notice). Then he tells them, “But just **remember later** who took care of you.” And this guy does it with **all his Boss’s debtors**.

**JESUS then says**, “What a **wise steward!** He used an opportunity he knew was coming to an end to prepare for the future, to make friends for his new future. That’s how you should be with your money in regards to eternity.”

- Now, first, **what an awesome story!** Can you believe Jesus told it? Shady!
- But **second, do you get the point?** The point is, **if you know your time in your current reality** is coming to a very quick end, isn’t it wise to **use these precious few moments** to prepare for the coming reality—the permanent one?

**IOW, If we know eternity is real**, and it is coming (*and that compared to eternity this life is like just a vapor*) **isn’t it wise to leverage these brief moments** for our coming, permanent reality?

- In fact, it’s just **outright foolish** to do otherwise, right?

- Imagine I were staying at the **Holiday Inn** and looked at my room and said, *I’m going to redo this whole room with granite countertops, a hot tub, a new fridge, new bed, and a bay window*. Even the hotel manager would be like, “Hey, I appreciate the upgrades, but what are you doing?! **Why would you invest so much for a place that you’re staying at for so short?**”<sup>5</sup>

**Set your minds on things above, not on things of the earth!** IOW, what lasts? What matters? What is going to matter in regards to your money 100 years? In 10,000 years? The kind of car you drove? The kind of neighborhood you lived in?

- Live as if Jesus rules and eternity is real!
- **Only one life to live, will soon be past; only what’s done for Christ will last.** *Say it with me* (repeat)
- Only **2 things in life are truly eternal**: the kingdom of God and the souls of men. **Invest your life** there.
- One of the **dumbest statements** in our culture: **YOLO. I propose YALF: You Actually Live Forever!** You **believe that**, right? **Of course you do**. If so, why **waste your life** on trivial things in this world? **Why not make your life count for eternity?**
  - Ever play **Monopoly?** What **happens when it is done?** It all goes back in the box. It doesn’t matter how much you had—whether you owned Boardwalk or that cruddy Marvin Gardens—in the end, you just dump it all back into the box. Or **you know those times when you had to choose your piece** last and you had to be the thimble? I always knew it was going to be a bad game when that happened. It’s **hard to respect yourself** when you’re a thimble moving through life. But, even then, even if you’re a thimble... it’s temporary. T=t all goes back in the box.

<sup>4</sup> Luke 16:1–7

<sup>5</sup> Joby Martin, “Preeminent” part 2 in the *Before All Things: In His Church* series, preached at The Church of Eleven22 on Jan 15, 2017.

- **I've got a revelation for you—this thing called life** might feel as long as a Monopoly game, but it all goes back in the box at the end.
- **Live that way.**

**Paul says to the Colossians, “You have a choice to make. You can live as if Jesus rules and eternity is real; or you can live as if you’re sufficient to save yourselves and you’ll live forever.”**

- There’s **clearly a wiser** choice, he says! My money is on Jesus. Literally. **“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”** Jesus not just *gives* life, but *is* life, he says). He endures forever.
- **Jesus rules and eternity is real!**
- *If you have him you have it all!*

**You have to choose—what** is your source of life? What is going to last forever? **Faith is living as if Jesus rules and eternity is real.**

- **Luther:** 3 conversions: head (conviction that Jesus is Lord), heart (love him and trust him), pocketbook (you bring your spending and lifestyle in line with your convictions that Jesus rules and eternity is real)
- You’ve **got to make a definitive choice** and live that way! The worst thing is to be caught in the middle and try to do both.
  - **Joby Martin: Watching somebody trying to love God** and money is like watching somebody try to get out of a boat too slowly (dock). **Ever watch that?** You’re either in or you’re out. The guy who tries to have one foot in and one foot out starts sinking! You’ve got to make a decision or it will tear you apart.
- **And it’s a choice you’ve got to keep making.** The word “set” in vs. 2 in Greek is from *phroneo* and means continuous action. You have to do it today and then get up and do it again tomorrow. Otherwise, you’ll be trying to get back into the water and then you’ll make contact and splay out all over everywhere.

(MUSIC)

- **Look forward into eternity** and see who rules eternity. There, your life is not going to be determined by the kind of stock portfolio you amassed own here; or whether you got your jersey in the rafters, or if you owned a 2<sup>nd</sup> home or retired at 50.
  - It’s **going to be determined by Christ:** whether you lived out his will, pleased him and stewarded what he gave you for the purposes he gave you them for.
- **Now, one last thing before I close:** Some of you are like, “J.D., you keep talking about houses and stock portfolios and nice cars and that is just not the world I’m living in. I’m not sure if I can afford the rent this month or pay my medical bills.” **There’s something in here for you, too,** because, see, if Jesus rules from the right hand of God, that means that if you are doing his will, putting him first, he’ll take care of your needs.
  - **Seek first the kingdom of God,** he said, and all the rest of these things will be added to you!”
  - **You can trust him.** You may not have the margin to give extraordinary amounts of generosity like someone else could, but you can **still put Jesus first.**
  - **As La’Trell said in that video: You can give him the first and best** of what he gives to you and trust him to take care of your needs like he promised. **Test me in this,** he says in **Malachi 3:10,** bring the tithe into the storehouse (tithe = 10%, which is a great place to start). **Test him!**
- **See, again, our goal in this is not raising a bunch of money from wealthy people.** Our goal is that 100% of our people—from the oldest to the youngest and the riches to the poorest—would **make a commitment that demonstrates that Jesus is first** and best in their lives!
- I want **you** to make that commitment!

**Put away your** trust in earthly things to make life work. Set your minds on Christ—he **rules and eternity is real.** Put him 1<sup>st</sup> and let him take care of everything else!

## Offering + CP Interest Meetings

### 1) Online Giving

- In order to make it easier for you to follow God's call to put him **first** in your finances, we have **launched a NEW online giving platform** at [summitrdu.com/give](https://summitrdu.com/give).
- 67% of our church gives online...
- I do:
  - I never carry cash: We all live our lives online
  - This can help you **prioritize** the kingdom of God by making it a regular rhythm. It keeps you from forgetting.
- **We've made it easy enough that you could even do it during service when we call for offering.**

### 2) Church Planting Interest Meetings

- We've talked about putting Jesus first in your **time, talent, and treasure**...going with one of our church plants could be the way God is calling you to do that in one – or all three! – of those areas.
- So again, On Monday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Brier Creek Campus we're hosting interest meetings for our church plants in **Brooklyn, London, and Auburn**. This is your opportunity to hear from our church planters, find out what joining a church plant looks like, and show your support.
- **God uses ordinary people** to advance the gospel – business people and young professionals, college students and retirees – who are willing to put their yes on the table and let God put it on the map.
- We want to **invite you to take that step**. This is an invitation to see if God could be calling you to go.

**((SG Question: 'Live as if Jesus rules and eternity is real.' Which is harder—to live as if Jesus rules in the present or that eternity is real?))**

*Identify places where you are living this out and where you are not.))*

## Missional Blessing + Send



## Bullpen

- Sacrifice is giving up something you love for something you love even more!
- For the privilege of knowing Christ, and seeing people saved!
- Lift your eyes to eternity! What will you wish you had done with your money?
- Fixing up a Holiday Inn room?
  
- **Paul's goal:** teaching *everyone* and presenting *everyone* mature in Christ. When is this church done? When we have done that in the Triangle.
- Second, note that part of getting people to maturity in Christ is **warning** them of the consequences of disobedience. **I feel that in this series.**

**Which better describes your attitude toward the church: servant or a consumer?**

Everything, however, is spiritual- **Jesus is the dresser itself, not just one of the drawers**

Do you have a responsibility toward the church? Do you primarily look at the church as something you benefit from or something you have a role in?