

“...To Proclaim Freedom to The Captives”

Acts 1:8; Luke 4:17–19; Ephesians 2:8-9

March 1, 2026

The Invitation That Changed Everything

- **A fraternity brother's invitation**
- **An unexpected encounter with God. Most everything I thought I knew about God was based upon what I had assumed in my ignorance.**
- **The Bible revealed I was wrong...and revealed how I could be right!**

Romans 3:9-10,13 if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Saved: Set free from sin, rescued from hell; restored and joined to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Justified: (Legally) to be declared not guilty of an offense or offenses against a certain party or parties
(In this case, God)

1 Corinthians 12:3 ...no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in(by) the Holy Spirit.

Called Out to Call In

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Witness: In law, a witness is someone who, either voluntarily or under compulsion provides testimonial evidence, either oral or written, of what they know or claim to know.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Ministers of Reconciliation, Ambassadors of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17-18,20 if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors of Christ...

- **Postage due or a Mortgage way past due?**

Minister: someone who aids or attends to the needs of another. That could be a doctor, politician, attorney, caregiver, flight attendant, nurse, etc.

Reconciliation: restoring harmony, friendship, or unity between estranged parties after conflict, involving forgiveness, mutual understanding, and rebuilding trust to move forward, whether between people, groups, or a person or God. It's about mending broken relationships by addressing past hurts, making amends, and creating a new, more peaceful connection, moving from discord to accord.

Ambassador: An official spokesperson of an authority or authorities who have delegated power to such an official to speak their will or act on their behalf

Two Couples that Demonstrate the Reconciling Power and Pursuing Love of God:

- **Todd and Bobbie Vignes, Alpha 2004**
- **Gus and Tara Mackey, Alpha 2003**

No Greater News, No Greater Privilege

The beauty and wonder of God is this: He calls to Himself those who were once far from Him, then empowers them to share the joy of His gift of salvation with others so they too may trust Him. What a calling!

- *Good News, Good Freedom, Good Sight, Total Acceptance!*

Luke 4:17-19 *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

25 Years of Alpha...and Counting

Let me tell you what Alpha isn't before I tell you what it is...

- **Dr. David Scaffidi, Alpha 2024**

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

What if Jesus asked YOU the question: "Why should I let you into my heaven?"

2 Questions as we close this morning:

- Will you receive what God is offering you?
- Will you give what God has given you?