

[00:00:01] Welcome to the Hope Church Glasgow Sunday podcast. We pray you encounter God's love afresh. Find out more about us@hopechurchglasgow.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

[00:00:13] Thank you. That was amazing worship, wasn't it?

[00:00:17] You guys smashed it, as always.

[00:00:21] Lovely.

[00:00:22] I love that song. And I'll stand in awe of you.

[00:00:27] Bit of a preacher's nightmare because every time I sung let my words be few, my sermon shrank by a few minutes.

[00:00:37] I know I now have two minutes left, so.

[00:00:45] Yeah, man. Amazing conference.

[00:00:54] For those of you who missed it, do not worry. We are one body.

[00:00:58] So those who had to stay home, do other things, you get your fair share of the spoils.

[00:01:09] So do not feel as though you missed out on anything, because we are all receiving.

[00:01:18] And what God imparted is. Is much bigger than just a few days. It's something that is lasting. And so just if you weren't there, just know you've received something and you can kind of come away going, oh, wow, thank you. Thank you, Lord, that we're one body, that we're all in this together.

[00:01:40] It's great news.

[00:01:41] After Sunday last week, we went to be with the youth with Chuck's team, and then we took them from there over to Cambus Lang.

[00:01:54] We had to drop the youth off or the interns who were staying with Ian and Anne, and we thought, okay, well, let's show them where Whitefield preached at the preaching braes. Did you know in 1842 and 43, Whitefield preached, there were crowds of. They estimated between 30 and 40,000 people.

[00:02:16] 30 and 40,000 people in this natural amphitheater. And there's a plaque, a big sort of memorial stones there where that happened. And so we took them to that site. And as we were there, we had just sort of arrived, and this local guy from Cambus Lang came by. It was like, what are you guys doing? You know, you're taking pictures. What's. What's going on? Like, what are you taking pictures here for? And he was so interested, and, like, he wouldn't leave us alone.

[00:02:48] And part of me was like, dude, like, you know, we want to pray. You know, I didn't say that, but, like, you know, but he was, like, so intrigued. He was like, what's going on? Like, what are you. And he kept saying, well, what are you here for? Until one of the interns finally said, you know, to be honest, Thomas, I think we're here for you.

[00:03:08] And he was like. And he was like, I knew you were gonna say that because we had been telling him about the preaching praise. And so Jordan just starts sharing the gospel with

him and saying, you know, it could be God sent us here just to share the gospel with you. And this is the site of this happening. And Jesus came and do you want to, do you want Jesus in your life? Do you want to receive Jesus? Because he was saying that he was a Catholic and he said, but do you, do you, do you know Jesus? He's like, no, I don't. I want to. I do want to know him. And so he prayed to receive Jesus right there.

[00:03:48] And I know, it was so amazing. Yeah, and we can pray for him in a second. But it was so cool because at the end of the service last week, week, my friend Andrew, who came down from Orkney, came up and said, I have a word, you know, and if you weren't here, his word was he had come through the doors and he had said to the greeters, what must I do to be saved? As a joke.

[00:04:13] And he was joking with them. But then in worship time, he said, he was sitting there and Holy Spirit said to him, you were saying, what must I do? As a joke.

[00:04:24] But I was releasing a prophetic word because there are going to be people coming to these doors and people are going to come and the question on their lips is, what must I do to be saved?

[00:04:36] And it was.

[00:04:38] It was a really cool word. And he left with that. And then all of a sudden we go to this, the preaching brace and Thomas gets saved.

[00:04:50] Isn't that cool?

[00:04:54] So, Lord, we do just thank you that this is what you're doing, that you're doing something supernaturally, that you're releasing salvation, revelation of you and a boldness of your people who are not ashamed of the gospel, but who are caught up in an awe of your power, your capacity to save and your desire to save, that we align ourselves with your very heart and we pray that you do that today in a fresh way in Jesus name.

[00:05:32] Well, when we were on our way in, Rachel was telling me what she was doing with the kids. She's in there with the kids right now. She said, oh, I'm going to start with a. Would you rather you ever play that game? Would you rather. But she's got the biblical version and I thought, that sounds so cool.

[00:05:51] I was like, well, we're gonna pinch that. We're gonna do a little bit.

[00:05:54] We can't just allow the kids to have all the fun.

[00:05:59] So here's some of her. Would you Rather.

[00:06:02] I took a picture of her notebook.

[00:06:06] So the first one is, would you rather kill a giant like David or survive a night in the lion's den like Daniel? Okay, if you're lion's den, stand up.

[00:06:22] Kill a giant or lion's den. If you're lion's den, the rest of you are like, we are giant slayers.

[00:06:30] Bring it on.

[00:06:34] Ruthless. Ruthless.

[00:06:38] Wow.

[00:06:40] Jeez. Keep the stones away from this group.

[00:06:45] Okay. Would you rather walk on water like Peter or be teleported like Philip?

[00:06:54] Okay, take a moment. All right, if it's teleported like Philip, stand up.

[00:07:02] Okay.

[00:07:03] Okay, we got some water walkers and some teleporters. Nice.

[00:07:13] By faith, I want you all to tap your chest and say, beam me up, Lord. No, I'm just kidding.

[00:07:22] Would you rather survive being bit by poisonous snakes like Paul or survive being thrown in a fire like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? There's no question.

[00:07:36] No question.

[00:07:37] If it's fire, stand up.

[00:07:44] Oh, she's got many more. We won't do them all, but I thought of this one. I thought of this one.

[00:07:51] Would you rather. Okay, there's two more. Two more.

[00:07:55] These are the ones I was thinking of. Would you rather be at the ascension of Christ or to be at the transfiguration?

[00:08:08] Okay, if it's transfiguration, stand up.

[00:08:12] I think transfiguration would be pretty cool. It's like, what up, Moses? Yeah. Anyway. Yeah, okay. Cool, cool, cool, cool. The last one. Last, last one.

[00:08:24] Would you rather be at the cross when there's the crucifixion or the birth of Jesus?

[00:08:36] Take a moment and think about it. Earth shattering. You have a chance to comfort Jesus at the cross.

[00:08:45] Okay. All right.

[00:08:47] If you would rather be at the cross, stand up.

[00:08:53] Wow.

[00:08:54] All right, all right, Cool. Coco, Cool. All of you sitting down. You fail. No, I'm just kidding.

[00:09:02] I know.

[00:09:05] What a silly game.

[00:09:08] Fun to think about, though, Cycling through the different biblical stories and thinking how cool it would be to be in that moment.

[00:09:20] And the cool thing is that Jesus, the same Jesus is actually alive with us.

[00:09:29] If you think about that, the same Jesus is alive right here, that his attention is on us. So when I had been cycling through those things, thinking in the worship and then just thinking, oh, Jesus is saying, my attention is on you.

[00:09:45] It's so significant that Jesus, the Lord, who went through and did all of these things, like, he's like, I will never leave you or forsake you.

[00:09:56] Which means anything is possible.

[00:10:00] That's true. Young people, my children. It's true. Of you. It's true of every single one of you.

[00:10:08] Jesus is present, so it's good to give him our attention.

[00:10:15] So in the vein of keeping my words, be few. That's it. No, I'm just kidding.

[00:10:20] Not going to keep them that few.

[00:10:23] What time are the children done?

[00:10:26] 12. That should be easy.

[00:10:29] Manageable.

[00:10:32] Well, also, another testimony.

[00:10:35] We haven't signed our missives, but it very much looks like we're moving towards the 30th of October as a moving date.

[00:10:48] We're holding it lightly because we've seen things go pear shaped so many times. But right now the lawyers are all talking and it feels as though that might actually be the date. That's so soon. Right.

[00:11:02] So we'll be moving into Annie's land, so we'll not be far away. We'll have a housewarming party.

[00:11:11] The house isn't huge, so we'll have to do it four people at a time. No, no, it's not, it's not. It's not actually small. It's a lovely house. So we're really, we're really, really pleased. And God's done a lot of miracles to get us to this stage.

[00:11:27] So Kingdom Culture today is the first episode, not episode, first sermon in a new series of Kingdom Culture. And how appropriate, because we just had this conference on Kingdom Culture and it is one of the best things we could possibly think be, be talking about right now in this season, especially as we just like the. All of the things going on with that declaration that we just made about the church in Glasgow. Isn't that a great declaration?

[00:12:06] That rocks.

[00:12:13] What was that?

[00:12:15] You wrote it, bro.

[00:12:17] You nailed it.

[00:12:20] Smash that one.

[00:12:24] Yeah, that was good.

[00:12:28] We're in the same heart here.

[00:12:33] So I want to talk a little bit about culture, what culture is and what Kingdom Culture is. And I'm going to basically try to lay out what this series is going to be about.

[00:12:45] Okay, I'll lay it out and then we'll, and then we'll talk about one sort of crucial aspect at the end.

[00:12:52] But I was sharing my testimony yesterday at a men's breakfast at a church nearby where I live.

[00:12:58] And it's something I've been asked to do more this last year than, than in a very, very long time. And so I was sharing my testimony. And for those of you who don't know, I have a sort of a.

[00:13:11] A really weird testimony. Even me. Share. Even me. It doesn't even feel like me, you know, like it involves the Illuminati. Like weird stuff. Right. Someday Maybe I'll, I'll talk about the thing in, in greater detail, but it's weird.

[00:13:31] And I sort of got shocked into the kingdom.

[00:13:37] I had this demonic episode. I actually, like, saw this demon. I had this episode after a three month period of being encountering supernatural things. And then all of a sudden I have this encounter with a demon, right? And I was so shocked that, like, okay, wow, God is so much more real than I know. The devil is so much more real than I know. And these things are like, God isn't just far away dealing with the nations and big things. Like, he's actually paying attention to what I'm doing right now.

[00:14:16] And I was aware of this spiritual reality.

[00:14:19] And I was aware that you don't know where you're deceived.

[00:14:24] The nature of deception is you don't know. And so I had been living life thinking that there were things in my life that were okay.

[00:14:33] And in reality I was actually pursuing the devil and it was so scary. So that's, you know, that's a really like bullet point version.

[00:14:46] But the point was I immediately knew that I needed people in my life.

[00:14:51] So there was a big, a big university, Western Washington University, that had a

campus ministry. And this campus ministry had a house where 15 guys lived, three campus pastors, and the rest were interns.

[00:15:08] And they sort of took me under their wing, said, you can move in here. And I was like, oh, great. You know, and it was like, I gave up my house. I don't own my own house. And I moved into this community and it was amazing. Like, you know, having work schedules and people, you'd come down to the living room, people would just be worshiping and people to pray with all the time and to talk to. What does this mean? What does that mean? And just living in community was so crucial. But there were other aspects of American Christianity that were really weird.

[00:15:40] Like they wanted to play board games all the time.

[00:15:46] They were sick, seriously addicted to board games.

[00:15:52] And sometimes, like, I would come down and I was really intense because I'm on the back of this experience of like, no, like, heaven is real and hell is real. There are people that are real. You know, spirits are moving all around us and they're trying to influence us. And so I was intense and I wanted to know, like, what is truth and what's not? Some people are like, you're still intense.

[00:16:13] Trust me, I've mellowed out a lot.

[00:16:18] But like, I'm like, I'm like, guys, like, Satan is trying to get us.

[00:16:24] And we got to get on the truth wagon quick, you know, like, we got to get armed up, you know? And they're like, shall we play Monopoly? I'm like, oh, let's go to the movies. And I'm just like, no, no, no.

[00:16:42] Like, you know, so I was a real legalist. I had a lot of sort of issues like, can't do that, can't do that, can't do that. And I had for a while, I was seeing a demon behind every corner, and I was just. I was pretty messed up. And, you know, in. In my heart. And I was like, in an intensive care season.

[00:17:04] Sometimes we go through these intensive care seasons. But it's good thing, because I was.

[00:17:09] I was launched into a life with God in a good way. But the point is, I had said to my friend, like, I just don't get Christianity. What's going on here? I'm reading this book, and they are pretty intense, and I'm looking at what we do, and it's not marrying up. Like, I don't quite get it. And he was saying, look, you're experiencing Christianity in America, but Christianity has a different expression in different countries.

[00:17:44] Maybe what you need to do is go to a different country, a country that's not so affluent, and experience what is happening in the church there.

[00:17:54] And so I thought, okay. So he told me about Ywam, and I thought, that looks. That sounds good. They had this big book called the Go Manual, and you could flip it through and choose to go anywhere you wanted to go, really. Any country almost.

[00:18:06] And I thought, well, I want to go someplace hard, but not too hard.

[00:18:11] You know, I'd like to go someplace where I don't stick out like a sore thumb, where I

can blend in to some degree. So I went to Kiev, I went to Ukraine and thought, okay, you know, this is. This would be good.

[00:18:23] And it was. It was amazing. I was living in a house with a guy from Tajikistan.

[00:18:30] No, where was he from?

[00:18:32] Uzbekistan.

[00:18:34] Yeah. You had people from all over. A guy from Ukraine and a guy from Ohio was the weirdest one.

[00:18:43] And people from Ohio are very weird. No, I'm just kidding.

[00:18:49] There's anyone here from.

[00:19:02] I would like to apologize to anyone from Ohio who I love.

[00:19:11] No, I'm just kidding.

[00:19:15] No, but it was so true what my friend had said, that actually what happens is in a culture, everybody has things, things that they value.

[00:19:28] In Ukraine, they value sincerity very much. So everybody kind of walks around looking very angry.

[00:19:37] And it's not that they're sincerely angry, but they feel like to smile when they don't really, really, really mean it, isn't so sincere.

[00:19:47] So for the most part, they don't do that.

[00:19:51] And that affects the way that they interact with God. It affects their Christianity. And in America, people smile all the time, even when they don't mean it.

[00:20:01] And they have a very outgoing way. And that has its strengths. It also has its weaknesses.

[00:20:07] And then whether a culture as a whole is coming from a place of abundance or coming from a place of lack, these affect the way that we see, the way that the church expresses itself in relationship and expresses itself in worship and to God.

[00:20:27] And culture is made up of all of these things. It's made up of the food that we eat, the language that we use, the things that we find important or not important.

[00:20:38] Our communication styles, our facial expressions, the clothes we wear, the music we listen to.

[00:20:46] Every aspect of our world, in our interaction with one another makes up the culture that we live in. And then even within our culture, you have subcultures.

[00:20:59] You have, like, goth. That's a subculture. Any goths in the room?

[00:21:04] Oh, oh, emos, Emos. Sorry, sorry.

[00:21:09] Lots of sub. Lots of subcultures.

[00:21:13] You have subcultures of, you know, even within. In America, you have people who are like, Irish, Italian, Irish Americans and Italian Americans and African Americans. This winds British people up to no end.

[00:21:29] They're like, you're not Irish?

[00:21:32] No.

[00:21:34] Every American who comes here is Scottish, aren't they?

[00:21:40] It all comes back to Scotland.

[00:21:43] But there are subcultures, and cultures receive the kingdom differently and cultures express the kingdom differently.

[00:21:55] But the gospel is relevant to every culture.

[00:22:00] Now. When I posted something on TikTok about the cultural Kingdom Culture Conference, some dude was like, oh, here we go. American Christianity trying to change cultures.

[00:22:12] And I was like, yeah, I get that. I totally get that.

[00:22:18] There is a sort of cultural transformation that is unhelpful.

[00:22:25] And for many years, missionaries went into places like, like Africa, for example, and they would ask people to wear suit and ties and they would build buildings and they would impose their own religious cultural practices on cultures that had different ways of expressing.

[00:22:54] So there wasn't a level of sensitivity to actually say, oh, actually, the way that you.

[00:23:01] The way that you like to worship more than anything is under a tree because there's shade and it's open air and it's not stifling hot. And you can wear the clothes that you normally wear, because to put on a suit and tie, you're going to be completely sweating and you don't have money to buy those things anyway.

[00:23:17] We'll buy them for you the first time. But then you got to sustain that. And. And it's this imposing of your interpretation of what the kingdom looks like in your culture, imposing that on another culture.

[00:23:37] This is what Rachel and I studied in at our university.

[00:23:41] It was a missions university, and the degree was in cross cultural communications, which is essentially missiology. And it was all about this sort of thing.

[00:23:50] It was all about culture. Because it is a real gift to actually say, well, Lord, what does your kingdom look like as an expression in this culture and without imposing your views. And like we said, that's true of a nation, but it's also true of a church or a community or even a family.

[00:24:17] I don't know if any of you went to that.

[00:24:21] What's that group? They had this big thing at the.

[00:24:25] This is the worst revelation room. Yeah. It's amazing that you knew exactly what I was talking about. That was like the worst description on the planet. Like that thing at that place. And like, there were people.

[00:24:38] You're like, revelation room. Yes, exactly.

[00:24:41] And they had. They had the flute and the bagpipes.

[00:24:45] Best bagpipe worship I have ever heard. I was like, no way can that do that. That's not what we get on the ice street.

[00:24:54] It was amazing. And the flute and something about a Scottish sound erupting from the place was like, wow.

[00:25:04] So beautiful. And I've been listening a lot to the Hope Sounds album. What a great album that is.

[00:25:12] Music erupting from a place, from a cultural beauty of the kingdom, erupting from within a culture, an expression of that culture. And of course, there are influences and blends. And that's the whole thing about the beauty of kingdom culture, is that the Lord, he brings something of the kingdom and he releases it. And there is cross pollination, you know. Have you ever heard of the book Peace Child?

[00:25:47] I think it's Don Richards, maybe these missionaries this missionary went to.

[00:25:53] I think it's like Papua New guinea or someplace.

[00:25:56] And it's such a cool story because he was stuck in this cultural mindset of trying to get these people to repent according to his.

[00:26:07] The gospel, essentially. And he was sharing the gospel with them, and they just were not getting it. And in these cultures, there were these two tribes that were sort of warring with one another, and they. They had a high value for treachery.

[00:26:22] Like, it was really praised in their culture. If you could trick someone else and take advantage of them, which you think, okay, well, that's maybe not the greatest cultural value. And, you know, sometimes cultures have Values that are simply not good.

[00:26:43] There are some cultures that are really unhealthy, and there are some things that you have to. You have to say, okay, well, that's very unhealthy. And you can look at some cultures and you can see how they're not functioning. They're. They're machines grinding and spitting people out.

[00:27:01] And you kind of think, well, there's a lot that needs to change. But don't be mistaken in thinking that the whole culture is bad because God doesn't leave himself without a witness.

[00:27:11] And. And there are redeemable features in every culture.

[00:27:17] And part of kingdom culture is. Is seeing through the sin into the kingdom and calling out the kingdom to redeem a culture.

[00:27:30] And so what this guy noticed was that these tribes were at war with one another, and they would trick one another, and one. One guy would convince another guy that, oh, actually, we do want to be friends, it's all going to be fine. And he would get him to come over to the village and then they'd kill him.

[00:27:52] And it was like, you know, and it just went over and over. And this guy was mortified because he wants to see them saved, and they've got this high value. And all of a sudden he learns about this ritual that they had where one chief, if one chief said to the other tribe, I will let my son live with you, it was sacrosanct. It was not allowed to be deceived about. If one child said, I'll let you raise my son, it was an act of peace that was bigger than any of these other values. And you weren't allowed to mess about with this. And that child was called the peace Child.

[00:28:43] And it was a very rare thing that there would be this level of trust because he was trying to work. How can we get these two tribes to be together? And he came across this.

[00:28:58] And when he heard that, he recognized Jesus in that story, and he said, do you know, God the Father gave his peace child to all of us as humanity to. To make peace with us so that we could be reconciled. And it clicked for them, and both tribes got radically saved as. As he as. And his whole point was, you can actually see past the sin and look that what has God left in a culture that is. That is to be redeemed? What is he still breathing on?

[00:29:40] And it's a great book I highly recommend. It's called Peace Child.

[00:29:45] The point is that Jesus is relevant to every culture.

[00:29:50] Not necessarily.

[00:29:53] My experience in the way that I worship may not be relevant to every culture.

[00:29:59] The Way that I dress when I come to church and how I do my meetings and all those things. Those things may not translate perfectly, but. But Jesus himself is universal. The cross was universal. The redemption and the reconciliation was universal, was for every culture, every nation, every tribe. And there will be a moment when we stand before God in every nation, every tongue, and every tribe, in the beauty of all the spectrum of, of humanity and cultures and flavors and colors and languages and clothing and all of that stuff. And every person who stands before the Lord on that day will be the greatest, most unique expression of their culture that have ever existed, because it will not be marred by sin.

[00:30:59] And kingdom culture is about us understanding what that looks like for us now here in this place, in this city, in this nation, in this church, in your family, in your workplace and in your community.

[00:31:23] That's exciting.

[00:31:31] Has anyone ever seen the Transformations videos?

[00:31:35] They're pretty cool, right?

[00:31:38] This is a great example in these videos. I think they're available on YouTube. Great example of what it looks like when the kingdom of God comes into a community and radically transforms a community.

[00:31:53] That's like really, really exciting stuff.

[00:32:00] Almonga, Guatemala, was widely known as a place overrun by extreme poverty, idolatry, deep seated alcoholism. And it was tied to the worship of a local folk, St. Nicholas, named Maximum.

[00:32:18] The police chief at the time noted that the town was defined by constant nightly drunken brawls. And all the jails were overflowing.

[00:32:32] Eventually, of the 18,000 residents, 90% of them had surrendered to Christ.

[00:32:42] 90%.

[00:32:44] A local leader named Donato said once people were converted, they changed their customs and left drinking behind.

[00:32:52] There was so much more respect in the community.

[00:32:55] Day by day, the rest followed and joined the church because of the changes they saw in the lives of Christians. Ultimately, they had to close the jail.

[00:33:09] They had to close the jail.

[00:33:13] How great would that be In Cali, Colombia. Oh my gosh, we got nine minutes left. Jesus, let my words be few.

[00:33:28] Cali, Colombia, was heavily feared because of the cartel.

[00:33:37] There were massive, continuous all night prayer meetings as the church gathered together and football stadiums. Sorry.

[00:33:47] And researchers were able to note a sustained, profound influence on the whole city.

[00:33:57] It affected the whole city.

[00:34:01] There's another one about the Inuit villages. I won't. I won't go into them all for time's sake, but it's worth going and watching just the massive transformations on communities.

[00:34:14] I will say that in this Arctic Inuit village, there was crippling alcoholism, widespread domestic abuse, drug addiction, and a youth suicide rate that was 20 times the national average.

[00:34:32] Local elders Families and believers took steps of humility, steps of humility to seek God with one another.

[00:34:42] They had unscripted corporate repentance and prayer.

[00:34:47] And there were home after home that had been defined by alcoholism and violence was transformed into places of peace.

[00:34:58] It's really well documented. I have a friend who actually went there, got funding to go there with his family.

[00:35:06] The addiction recovery rates soared, marriages were restored, and the region experienced an abrupt, complete halt to the youth suicide problem.

[00:35:22] Yeah.

[00:35:25] What kind of transformation does God want to bring to Glasgow?

[00:35:30] I know that this church prayed when the violence was so bad in Glasgow.

[00:35:39] There was a report done by the World health organization in 2005 that said of 21 European countries, Glasgow was the murder capital of Europe.

[00:35:51] And I know this church prayed radically and tracked those numbers and saw that the numbers come down and there was. You can. This is well documented what has happened in Glasgow over this time. And it's been amazing.

[00:36:09] But just recently, this last week, did you hear about the report of the drug deaths?

[00:36:15] Glasgow are up again, again by 10%, I think it was.

[00:36:23] And we were already the highest in Europe.

[00:36:30] God's solution to this problem is cultural transformation.

[00:36:37] And I want to say this, I'll have to unpack this maybe next week.

[00:36:43] But his plan for cultural transformation is individual transformation.

[00:36:50] His plan is this word metamorphosis. Metamorpho. Is that right?

[00:36:59] That's the English word.

[00:37:01] The Greek word is.

[00:37:03] You guys speak English? But no, I'm just kidding.

[00:37:16] Yeah, I don't know where it is, but it's this thing of. The Lord, wants to lead us into transformation. Individual transformation.

[00:37:26] Here it is. Listen to this. Romans 12, 2.

[00:37:29] Do not be conformed to this world.

[00:37:34] Do not be pressed into the mold of this world, but be transformed. Metamorpho is the word.

[00:37:43] Be transformed by the renewal of your mind. That by testing, you may know the will of God, the good and acceptable and perfect will of the Lord.

[00:37:55] The world and its culture wants to press us into its mold.

[00:38:02] The music that you listen to, the people you hang out with, everything that Satan can throw at you to try to dumb you down, he will do.

[00:38:17] Everything he can do to make you dull, he will do.

[00:38:22] But the Lord's plan is, I want to transform you into something beautiful. And as I transform you and I put my glory on you, as Jesus said in John 17, the glory with which you have given to me, I now give to them.

[00:38:42] As I put my glory on you, your life is going to transform the world around you.

[00:38:50] You are going to be a city that is not hidden from the world, but a city that is put on a hill.

[00:38:58] You are going to be a lampstand that doesn't have a basket over it. But I have taken you and I have called you the glory of, the glory of the Lord. You become the righteousness of God.

[00:39:16] And this is such an amazing thing that God finds us in our weakness before we can do any.

[00:39:23] Anything that would be impressive to him at all.

[00:39:27] Hey. Wow.

[00:39:29] Dang, bro. Nice one.

[00:39:32] He finds us before we can do anything good. And he says, you are the righteousness of God.

[00:39:40] And that's the thing that I really wanted to sort of get to today, that we don't have time to. But what it means to be righteous, because it's this beautiful thing that, that God calls you holy instantaneously by faith. But he wants that to be transformative. He wants it to actually change the way we live, that you get to be the head and not the tail. You get to be the driver of cultural transformation.

[00:40:08] And he's created you. And we say, well, I'm weak. I don't even have. My faith is kind of weakened. The good news is that none of that matters because Jesus closed the distance.

[00:40:21] So I hope that you have an appetite that's been wetted for transformation in your world. Because what we prayed about, the churches in Glasgow, like, the reason that Rachel and I are moving our family is because we want to be part of a church that just exudes the culture of heaven.

[00:40:44] We. We need that. We need to be in a community of people who love one another radically, who hold one another radically, who are generous, who weep with one another, who stand with one another, who, who. Who are able to actually be the love of God for one another. And it's worth fighting for. And the reality is none of us are perfect. None of us are going to get it right.

[00:41:11] But this thing that I'm calling, that we're, you know, that we're calling kingdom culture, that Jesus simply called the kingdom of God, is worth dying for.

[00:41:23] And he did.

[00:41:26] And he opened up a door that we get to live in it and we don't have to work for it.

[00:41:32] We can't mess it up.

[00:41:36] So come back next week and we'll talk more about this thing, the righteousness of God. And I hope I'm on next week. No, I'm not. Well, come back next week anyway, because that's what we're talking about for this whole. This whole series. And then the next time I'm on, I'll talk more about righteousness. By faith.

[00:41:51] Let me pray.

[00:41:54] Father, I want to thank you so much that you have done all the work necessary.

[00:42:02] And Lord, I pray that in the spirit you would help each and every one of us to lay hold of the reality that it is finished, that you have done it, that we wouldn't be afraid of what you're calling us into, that there would be no fear because of the reality that you have already accomplished it and that you give us righteousness as a free gift. We pray that a lifting off of shame, a lifting off of worry and fear in any form. And we ask that you would hone us in on what you want to do in us, in our families, in our community, in our church, in our neighborhoods, in our workplaces and in our nation and in this world.

[00:42:55] We ask that you would help us to lift our our eyes off of whatever games we might be playing at the time and to lock eyes with you. Not that we become so intense and works focused, but that your joy may be abundant in our life and we can become the community you call us to be in Jesus name.

[00:43:18] Amen.

[00:43:19] Highly recommend reading the first five chapters of, well, actually the whole book of Romans, to be honest, before I preach the next time, which is probably a few weeks.

[00:43:32] Much love.

[00:43:34] Thank you for listening to this podcast from Hope Church Glasgow. There are loads more to listen to wherever you normally find your podcasts or you can find out more about us@hopechurchglasgow.org have a hopeful day.