

Good Morning, CHURCH!

How is everyone today? I am honored, privileged, and humbled to be here with you this morning. My prayer and my hope is this will be informative, fun, thought provoking, challenging and a call to action!

Thank you Joe, for this opportunity.

PLEASE STAND UP AND JOIN ME IN A PRAYER!

There are many callings in the life of a Christian. Some of us are teachers, some of us are pastors, some of us are evangelists, workers, but we are all called and we all have a purpose! When I met Joe in 2008, after attending my first service at HIS Place HB, we sat down and had a meeting and shared our visions for ministry. Joe called me an AA Evangelist!

WOW, I thought OK, that's cool! Yea, the AA Billy Graham of Huntington Beach. YEA RIGHT!!

THAT'S NOT MY STORY! But I am going to tell you my story!

I stand here today a REPORTER OF THE TRUTH AND LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST AND HOW IT TRANSFORMED MY LIFE.

We report and testify how the power of Jesus Christ changes our life so we can share the grace, mercy, and love of our Heavenly Father with a lost world.

WE ARE HERE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A DIFFERENCE MAKER?

I REPORT, YOU DECIDE!

Slide #1

I REPORT, YOU DECIDE!

*THIS IS THE STORY OF LOST AND
FOUND!*

Slide #2

*DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE WHAT YOU
REALLY BELIEVE IS REALLY REAL?*

Slide #3

*John 14:6 Jesus said: I am the way and the
truth and the life. No one comes to the Father
except through me.*

THE TRUTH IS THE TRUTH! YEA, SO WHAT?

BUT, BEFORE WE GET STARTED: I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.

Slide #4

How long, on average, do you think it takes to write a sermon?

Slide #5

18 hours

Slide #6

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT TOOK ME TO CREATE THIS SERMON?

Slide #7

182,528 hours...

Yea, I'm not the quickest learner and certainly not the sharpest tool in the shed!!

I AM SO GRATEFUL we have a patient,
loving, and kind heavenly Father! I was lost
and didn't even know it!

Did I Really Believe, What I really Believed was
Really Real???

Do you really believe what you really believe is
really real?? SO, NOW WHAT?

The last twenty years I have been on a journey of
discovering my identity, my purpose, researching, and
trying to understand the question and the answer!! WHO
IS THIS GOD I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN?

Can anybody relate to that??

I had information, I had knowledge, but did I have faith?

I had information about the Lord but did I have
relationship?

I was God's kid but did I act like it? The scripture we just
read, says the way, the truth, and the life.

I only operated on the truth, I was missing 2/3 of the
scripture!! The WAY and The LIFE!! **PROBLEM!!**

I REPORT YOU DECIDE!

James Michner said: "I would have been a better man if I had a better god."

NO, I would have been a better man if I had followed the God I said I believed in!

I was my god even though I believed in Jesus!

I REPORT, YOU DECIDE!

My story is the story of the Lost Son. I think many of us know the parable of the Prodigal Son.

Luke 15: 11-32. Let's read that. Please follow along if you have your Bible.

Slide#8

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, Father give me my share of the estate. So he divided his property between them. Not long after that the younger son squandered his wealth in wild living.

I was born and raised in Whittier, CA., in a community known as “Friendly Hills”. Great place, no sidewalks, no street lights, lots of trees you felt like you were in the country and not 30 miles from down town LA. Upper middle class neighborhood

I had two older brothers, super parents, loving Mom who was a homemaker. That the way it was then in that generation, Mom stayed home and Dad worked. Everybody loved my Mom! My Dad was a renaissance man. He could build anything, virtually fix anything and was an amazing community and business leader. The hospital where he was President of the Board of Directors for 40 years was his way of serving. He did not get paid for his time. They named a wing of that hospital after my father, Roy McDiarmid Tower and he died there on St. Patricks Day 1993. I AM SURE THE PRODIGAL SON’S FATHER WAS VERY MUCH LIKE MY DAD! I had Great parents! I went to 12 years of Catholic School. I played baseball, basketball, football, and even ran track during my freshman year in high school. I was friends with the jocks and the loadies/partiers, not so much the NERDS.. That wasn’t cool. Friends would frequently ask my opinion on their relationship issues.

I graduated from USC on the Dean’s list. I held most of the elected offices in my fraternity house. I had a blessed life just

like the Prodigal Son. I DIDN'T NEED ANYTHING AND I GOT VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING I WANTED!

THAT'S A PROBLEM!!

All sounds good, doesn't it????

I REPORT YOU DECIDE!

What happened to me?

THE INFORMATION THAT I BELIEVED WAS TRUE DID NOT TRANSLATE IN TO GODLY, UNSLEFISH, PRINCIPLED LIVING.

DID I REALLY BELIEVE WHAT I REALLY BELIEVED WAS REALLY REAL? **NO**

WAS THE TRUTH THE TRUTH? YEA, SO WHAT!

Let's rip off Roger's mask, shall we ??

Let's tear away the clown costume.

Let's look at the man inside the façade!!

Let's take a look at the Truth!

Let's examine the Heart of the Matter!

Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it.



Slide#10

Theodore Roosevelt said: When you educate a man in mind and not in morals, you educate a menace to society!

I was educated in mind and not in morals, but I thought I was! I was becoming a menace to society but didn't realize it.

I knew the TRUTH but I didn't act on it!

Did I really Believe what I really Believed was really real??

I REPORT YOU DECIDE

AS PAUL HARVEY WOULD ALWAYS SAY...AND “NOW THE REST OF THE STORY”

Well, let me back up for a moment to 1969. I was a sophomore in high school I had a black out hit and run after partying with my friends and to this day I don't know what I hit!

That same year I convinced one of my best friends to take my SAT test for college! I received the highest score in my class that year in high school. My friend who is now a doctor scored lower on his test than he did on mine! My school thought I was awesome! I was a liar and a cheat!

No consequences, no accountability, looking good on the outside, no legal issues no injuries!! car was repaired, life was good, and I was accepted at USC!

Did that change my thinking, did I believe in Jesus, was I the problem???

I REPORT YOU DECIDE!

In 1969 my girlfriend got pregnant didn't tell me because she thought it would ruin my life because, because I was going to college.

I didn't find out really, until years later that I had a daughter > BUT I ALWAYS KNEW IN MY SOUL!

No consequences. Nothing wrong with Roger! Oh Well, Life goes on!

1971 another drunken fiasco. After drinking all night, on Chinese New Years in China Town with my future wife and her father (WWII & Korea Veteran-Medal of Honor & Bronze Star Captain in the Army) and 26 year Lt. in LAPD (Rampart). I passed out in the car and Debbie had to drive back to fraternity row. She got mad at me, and when I came to, I smacked her! She got out of the car and I got beat up which was appropriate, by some of the guys on fraternity row.

So, I did what every good alcoholic would do I went in to the Fraternity house and drank and smoked some pot. Now, I'm good to go fix the problem with my girlfriend.

Got in my car merged on to the Santa Monica Frwy., I was virtually in a black out. All I remember is hitting something and sliding along the freeway guard rail with sparks flying.

From fraternity row to my girl-friends apt. was approximately 5 miles.

No accident, no ticket, no consequences. no accountability, Car was fixed and on and on it went.

WHAT IN HEAVENS NAME WAS WRONG WITH ME??

I graduated on the Dean's List at USC in June of 1974. I starting working in sales in the biomedical field and have been in the same field for 43 years. I got married in August of 1974 to a beautiful Christian woman, Debbie.

We were Married at Calvary Chapel by Chuck Smith. We went through pre-marital counseling, I knew all the answers and I passed the test, and we were married and later baptized by Chuck.

WOW, I had an "A" in knowledge and a "F" in Christianity!

ALL LOOKED GOOD ON THE OUTSIDE BUT I WAS DEAD ON TH INSIDE!

DID I REALLY BELIEVE WHAT I REALLY BELIEVED WAS REALLY REAL?

I REPORT YOU DECIDE

I KNOW NOW, WHAT I THOUGHT THEN!

OK, fast forward, I'm working, have a great job, beautiful wife, two glorious children. Serving on the Men's Prayer ministry at Calvary, going to church, reading the Bible.

I had a head full of knowledge, I was going through the motions but what was missing was relationship and activated faith! Couple that with addiction and I became the prodigal son! God never left me but I left him! My friends and my family were praying for me.

My best friend, a pastor for 35 years, said during my darkest days: **I WANT MY OLD ROGER BACK! I REMEMBERED THAT YEARS LATER, NEVER FORGOT IT BUT I WAS STILL COMPLETELY SELF WILLED!**

SO, NOW IT'S 1985, I was perennially a top performer at the company. They sent five of the sales team and managers to Japan as the guests of Olympus. They gave me this ring told me I was awesome, blah blah blah. When I came home I was promptly fired, not officially, they called it "Eliminating My Sales Territory". This was a politically correct way of saying you're FIRED! I found out later they suspected me of stealing from the company but couldn't prove it, AND that was true!

**THE TRUTH WAS THE TRUTH – DID I REALLY BELIEVE
WHAT I REALLY BELIEVED WAS REALLY REAL?**

I REPORT YOU DECIDE

This event rocketed me in to 11 years of prodigal existence. My wife Debbie tried to console me and I physically pushed her away. I left my family, I was an adulterer, a liar, a cheat, and definitely an alcoholic! Three Dui's, filed bankruptcy, and move back with my parents in my forties! RETURNED HOME JUST LIKE THE PRODIGAL SON. I HAD LOST EVERYTHING!

I was disgusted, busted and not to be trusted.

GOD NEVER LEFT ME, HE LOVED ME MORE THAN I COULD UNDERSTAND. MY PARENTS ACCEPTED ME AND STILL LOVED ME.

IN December 1996, after my 3rd DUI, facing jail, I went in to an Alternative Sentencing Program to try to avoid jail. I was there for 72 days. This was the first time I truly had a soul shaking, world changing experience with the “Man in the Mirror.” I was alone with no alternative but to face the problem...ME!

I was looking in the eyes of the enemy and the enemy was me! I was an educated fool, but I was God's Kid and He Loved Me!

Did anybody have a moral checklist that you would mentally go through? Maybe the Holy Spirit was convicting you about your behavior! You know the things you believed but you didn't act upon! I did not walk the talk or talk the walk. I just talked the talk!

CHECKLIST – READ IT!!

Oh, I always sounded good, I usually look good! But there was no depth, no weight, no spiritual life to back-up my thinking. NO ACTION BASED ON THE TRUTH!

Time to make good choices. Time to walk in HIS Way, in HIS Truth and follow HIS will in my life

I REPORT YOU DECIDE!

My journey of recovery had begun and my faith in Christ was under construction. My mind which was full of self-centeredness and my heart full was still challenged with deceit was being repurposed. Time for action!

Slide#11

IT'S SAID: THE MEASURE OF A PERSON IS NOT DETERMINED BY THEIR SHOW OF OUTWARD STRENGTH OR THE VOLUME OF THEIR VOICE, RATHER, IN TERMS OF THE NATURE AND DEPTH OF THEIR COMMITMENTS, THE GENUINENESS OF THEIR CAPACITY TO SUFFER AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO "GROW UP"

I REPORT YOU DECIDE.

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE WHAT YOU REALLY BELIEVE IS REALLY REAL?

**I AM COMMITTED, I AM WILLING TO FOLLOW JESUS AND SUFFERING IS PART OF THE DEAL!
"NO PAIN NO GAIN"**

Slide#12

JAMES 2:14,17,18-19

**WHAT GOOD IS IT, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
IF SOMEONE CLAIMS TO HAVE FAITH BUT HAS NO
DEEDS? FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT IS NOT
ACCOMPANIED BY ACTION, IS DEAD. SHOW ME
YOUR FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS, AND I WILL SHOW
YOU MY FAITH BY MY DEEDS**

I REPORT YOU DECIDE

I KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SET ME FREE!

**THE REFLECTION I SAW IN THE MIRROR WAS GOD'S
CREATION. BROKEN, LONELY, AFRAID BUT NOT
LOST!**

**AMAZING GRACE THAT SAVED A WRETCH LIKE ME, I
ONCE WAS LOST BUT NOW I'M FOUND, WAS BLIND
BUT NOW I SEE!**

**WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK IN THE
MIRROR?**

Slide#13

**GOD SAID: EPHESIANS 2:10 FOR WE ARE GOD'S HANDIWORK,
CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, WHICH
GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO!**

HERE'S WHAT GOD SEES WHEN HE LOOKS AT YOU!

Slide#14

SLIDE OF MONA LISA, SLIDE 9 FROM

MAN'S CONNECTION TO GOD – POWER POINT

**John Wayne said: Courage is being scared to death and
saddling up anyway!**

**JOE TALKED ABOUT STANDING UP INWHAT WE'RE
STANDING IN!**

I WAS PRETTY MUCH SCARED IN TO REALITY!

**NO MORE MASK... NO MORE COSTUME... NO MORE
LYING... JUST THE TRUTH!**

**I COMMENCED ON A LIFE CHANGING COURSE OF
ACTION in AA. I BECAME TEACHABLE! I DID THE
TWELVE STEPS WHICH BECAME A CODE OF ACTION.**

A ROAD MAP FOR LIFE! THE INFORMATION IN MY HEAD WAS CHANGED AND BECAME A PLAN TO LIVE BY!

I NEEDED A COMPLETE BRAIN WASHING, I NEEDED OPEN HEART SURGERY AND I NEEDED A TOTAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

Today is communion Sunday. Chris shared what the bible says, what Jesus said about communion. We hear that in our brain, it's just information! It's the truth, but so what! What do we do with that information?

Well, we pray, we ask our heavenly Father to conform us in to His image and likeness through celebrating the Last Supper. WE MEDITATE AND WE TAKE ACTION! WE ACT ON THE TRUTH. WE RECEIVE IT IN OUR HEAD AND WE TAKE IT IN TO OUR HEART. WE NOW HAVE THE BLOOD OF JESUS OPERATING IN US!

Can I get an Amen?

What was the process to take a head full of self-righteous knowledge, a heart beating to my will, and blood that was fatally corroded with faithless fluid?

I believed but how do we convert information in to action! I had NO activated faith, and I had no real, heart felt, meaningful, relationship with God. No disciplined prayer life, no “other centered” service for the kingdom!

GET INVOLVED IN A COMMUNITY OF ACTION. GET IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACK. GET SURROUNDED WITH LIKE MINDED PEOPLE.

God uses people who fail because there aren't any other kind!

Look at the apostles and many of the characters in the Bible God chose to use for His glory.

THEY WERE ALL FLAWED AND THEY WERE HAND PICKED BY JESUS!

YOU ARE HAND PICKED BY JESUS ON PURPOSE FOR A PURPOSE!

Slide # 15

God Formed us, Sin deformed us, and Jesus transforms us!

**How does Knowledge get from our head to our heart?
How is it transformed from head knowledge to Godly
wisdom?**

Slide #16

Romans 12:2 – Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

2 Corinthians 10:5 – We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ!

Chris can you be the Holy Spirit - PLUNGER

**SOMETIMES THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS TO PUSH IT DOWN
THOSE 18 INCHES FROM OUR HEAD TO OUR HEART!**

I REPORT YOU DECIDE!

LIFE ISN'T FAIR OR UNFAIR AND I AM NEVER A VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCE, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I THINK THAT WAY! LIFE IS JUST LIFE AND GOD IS ALWAYS ON THE THRONE!

LIFE IS ALWAYS IN SESSION! AND THERE ARE LESSONS TO LEARN.

I AM EITHER GROWING OR I AM GOING. THERE IS NO NEUTRAL IN GOD'S KINGDOM.

MY MOTHER DIED IN 2003 AND I'M 6 1/2 YEARS SOBER. LIFE IS GOOD. I ASKED MY BROTHER ABOUT THE ESTATE AND HE QUICKLY RESPONDED DO YOU WANT THE GOOD NEWS OR THE BAD NEWS AND I ANSWERED: WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS? HE SAID YOU OWE THE ESTATE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. I THINK IT WAS LIKE 40K. THIS WAS ALL PART OF MY ADDICTIVE PRODIGAL LIVING!

I HAD BORROWED MONEY FROM THE ESTATE AGAINST My INHERITANCE AND NEVER PAID IT BACK SO THE INTEREST ACCRUED OVER ALL THOSE YEARS. I'M NOT SURE IF THIS IS GOOD NEWS OR NOT, BUT MY BROTHERS CONVINCED THE LAWYER NOT TO COLLECT IT FROM ME!

WHEN I THINK ABOUT THIS IT MAKES ME SICK! I BASICALLY CHEATED MY PARENTS OUT OF THE INTEREST WHICH WAS MONEY THEY LIVED ON WHILE THEY WERE IN THEIR OLDER YEARS!

MY BROTHERS FORGAVE ME AND WE'RE CLOSE TODAY.

Why am I telling you this? Because Jesus loves me and Jesus you, always has and always will. There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God!

No matter what you've done, no matter who you are! Jesus Loves you and has an amazing plan for your life!

I REPORT YOU DECIDE!

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE WHAT YOU REALLY BELIEVE IS REALY REAL?

During those 11 years that I left my family, I REALIZE NOW GOD HAD HIS HAND ON ME AND PROTECTED ME FROM MYSELF AND PROTECTED OTHERS FROM ME! THERE WERE A MINIMUM OF 5 INCIDENTS IN MY LIFE THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED OR KILLED MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND OTHERS BUT GOD THROUGH HIS GRACE AND LOVE SAVED ME AND THEM!

Slide#17

ROMANS 8:28 - AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS GOD WORKS FOR GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM, WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. ROMANS 8:31- WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY IN RESPONSE TO THESE THINGS? IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US? ROMANS 8:37-39 IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US. FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NEITHER ANGELS OR DEMONS, NEITHER THE PRESENT OR THE FUTURE, NOR ANY POWERS, NEITHER HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

ONE MORE THING: THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT WOMEN IN MY LIFE ARE ALL IN HEAVEN; MY MOM, MY WIFE – DEBBIE AND MY FIRST LOVE TONI. GOD IS GOOD AND WE WILL BE TOGETHER FOR ETERNITY! THAT ROCKS!

CAN I GET AN AMEN!!

I AM A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST!

I REPORT YOU DECIDE! IS THIS REALLY REAL?

TODAY I CHOSE:

Slide#18

LUKE 10:27 – “LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”

HOW DO WE DO THIS?

Slide#19

PROVERBS 3:1-2 MY SON, DO NOT FORGET MY TEACHING, BUT KEEP MY COMMANDS IN YOUR HEART, FOR THEY WILL PROLONG YOUR LIFE MANY YEARS AND BRING YOU PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

PROVERBS 3: 3-4 LET LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS NEVER LEAVE YOU: BIND THEM AROUND YOUR NECK, WRITE THEM ON THE

TABLET OF YOUR HEART. THEN YOU WILL WIN FAVOR AND A GOOD NAME IN THE SIGHT OF GOD AND MAN.

PROVERBS3:5-6 TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN

ALL YOUR WAYS SUBMIT TO HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT!

CAN I GET AN AMEN!

I REPORT YOU DECIDE.

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE WHAT YOU REALLY BELIEVE IS REALLY REAL.

CMON NOW! WELL DO YOU?

OK, LISTEN UP. HERE IS THE OUR MARCHING ORDERS

Slide#20

MICAH 6:8 HE HAS SHOWN YOU, O MORTAL, WHAT IS GOOD. AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU? TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.

CAN I GET AN AMEN?

**I WAS LOST AND NOW I AM FOUND. WE HAVE AN AMAZING GOD!
I HAVE A LIFE TODAY I COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED, NEVER!**

I'M HERE TODAY WITH YOU GIVING A MESSAGE OF TRUTH AND LOVE AT HIS PLACE CHURCH, THE BEST CHURCH EVER. I AM BLESSED WITH JOE, AND CHRIS AS MY PASTORS AND ALL YOU MY FRIENDS! I HAVE AN AMAZING FAMILY THAT LOVES ME AND I LOVE THEM, I HAVE BEAUTIFUL GRANDCHILDREN THAT HAVE NEVER SEEN ME DRUNK OR LOADED. I HAVE AN AMAZING JOB AND I HAVE BEEN WITH THIS COMPANY FOR 23 YEARS. I HAVE THE RESPECT OF MY PEERS. I AM A CHURCH ELDER, I AM ON THE MEN'S COUNCIL, I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH BOB NOONAN TEACHING "STEPPING OUT", I HAVE THE HONOR AND PRIVILEGE OF WORK AND ASSISTING CONNIE AND BOB WITH MEN AT GABE'S HOMES, I GET TO SPEAK AT AA MEETINGS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, I GET TO SHARE THE GOODS NEWS OF RECOVERY THROUGH CHRIST AT THE SALVATION ARMY AND TEEN CHALLENGE.

MY LIFE IS SO FULL AND BLESSED WORDS DON'T DO IT JUSTICE!

OH, BY THE WAY, NONE OF THIS WAS MY PLAN!

I AM A MAN OF GOD WHOSE WAS LOST AND NOW IS FOUND!

I REPORT YOU DECIDE

THAT IS MY REPORT!!

THAT IS THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH SO HELP ME GOD!

DO YOU WANT SOME OF THIS? WELL DO YOU?

CLOSING PRAYER AND INVITATION TO RECEIVE CHRIST.

