

Sermon Notes

DECEMBER 10 & 11, 2011

Less Than - Terminal Velocity

Philippians 2:7-8

He Became As A Slave ...

1. To _____

2. To _____

Through Going The Way Of "Less Than" And Humbling Ourselves ...

1. _____ is expressed.

2. _____ is experienced.

Help For Humbling Ourselves

1. The place to begin is in _____

_____ to receive what He _____

_____ to bring.

2. Realizing how _____

_____ has everything to do with _____

_____ to dive.

Why does The Branch exist?
To help people live in an intimate relationship with God.

How do we help people do this?

We accept you where you are and encourage you to engage in an intimate relationship with God by growing in the Core Beliefs, Core Practices, and Core Virtues.

Our relationship with God becomes more intimate as we grow in these **Core Beliefs**:

GOD: There is one God, eternally existing in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8, Ephesians 1:13-14)

BIBLE: The Bible is the inspired Word of God, and therefore the final authority in our understanding of God and life. (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:19-21)

HUMANITY: God created human beings in His image for the purpose of living in an intimate relationship with Him. Through our sin, though, we are separated from an intimate relationship with God. (Acts 17:24-28, Isaiah 59:1-2)

SALVATION: God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to offer His righteous life as payment for our sin. Salvation is a free gift of God received through faith and expressed through confession, repentance, and baptism. (1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Romans 1:16-17; 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9, John 3:16, Acts 2:38)

TRANSFORMATION: God not only wants to save us, He wants to transform us into the image of His Son. Transformation is initiated by salvation, sustained by God's grace, and gathers momentum as our will is brought into ever-increasing alignment with God's will. (Philippians 2:12, Romans 12:1-2)

CHURCH: The church is the body of Christ on earth, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to reach those separated from God and mature those who have been restored to God through Christ. (Ephesians 4:1-16)

ETERNITY: Christ will one day return, final judgment will be rendered, the image of God will be completely restored within us, and we will reign with Christ forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 John 3:2)

Living in an intimate relationship with God is enhanced as we grow in these **Core Practices**:

- Pray daily
- Read the Bible daily
- Attend Celebration Worship weekly
- Connect with believers in a small group regularly
- Tell others of our experience with God
- Invite others to engage in an intimate relationship with God
- Contribute tithes and offerings to God
- Exercise our talents to serve others
- Speak honorably of others

As we live in an intimate relationship with God we will grow in these **Core Virtues**:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH A MATCHING GIFT BEFORE YEAR END

Everything given toward the reduction of our principal debt between now and December 31st will be matched, up to

\$125,000. Please note "One To Grow On" on the check or if you're giving online.

Wiring funds or the transfer of stock can also be done. Please contact Mona

Swofford at mswofford@thebranch.org for more information.

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DECEMBER 10 & 11, 2011

Welcome to The Branch at Vista Ridge

First time here?

It is great to have you as a guest in our church home. We would love to know a little bit more about you. Please fill out the communication card and drop it in the offering or at the Information Center. Stop by the Welcome Center to pick up a first time guest bag.

The Branch is one church in multiple locations that exists to help people live in an intimate relationship with God. Each weekend, we have **five services in two venues on two campuses**. Chris Seidman, our Senior Minister, rotates between venues. Each venue is equipped to project a video of the message when Chris is not in person at that location.

This Weekend

Saturday

Venue Host: Steve Calvert
Worship Leader: Ryan King

5:00 pm Service

Downtown - 3 months - Preschool

*Check-In nursery through preschool at Kids Branch Information Center.
Our older kids will join their parents in the Sanctuary for family worship.*

Sunday

Venue Host: Steve Calvert
Worship Leader: Jaron Pitts

9:00 am Service

Downtown - 3 months - Preschool

Uptown - K - 4th Grade

10:45 am Service

Downtown - 3 months - Preschool

Uptown - K - 4th Grade

Route 56 - 5th & 6th Grades

Seventy8 - 7th & 8th Grades

912* - 9th - 12th Grades



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CHURCH OF CHRIST
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A CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY
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Listen to this sermon and others by Chris Seidman, our Senior Minister, online at www.thebranch.org or on CD (\$5) in the lobby. Contact: multimedia@thebranch.org for more information.

Chris' weekly messages can be subscribed to through iTunes's podcasting. The subscription link can be found at www.thebranch.org or search iTunes for "The Branch."

FIRST TIME GUESTS

Welcome! Please complete the information below and place with the offering or turn in at the Information Center. **Please print clearly.**

Name(s): _____ M/F

Single Married His DOB ____/____/____ Her DOB ____/____/____

Address: _____ Apt# _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip _____

Household Phone: (____) _____ - _____

HIS Email: _____

HER Email: _____

Children (please list children 18 and under):
 _____ M/F DOB: ____/____/____
 _____ M/F DOB: ____/____/____
 _____ M/F DOB: ____/____/____

How did you hear about The Branch:
 Website Saw the building Other: _____
 Friend/Family: _____ VR 12/11/2011

MEMBERS & REGULAR GUESTS

Please let us know you were here today. Place cards with the offering or turn in at the Information Center. **Please print clearly.**

Adults attending today:

Last Name _____ First Name(s) _____

Please update my information:

Address: _____ Apt# _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip _____

Household Phone: (____) _____ - _____

HIS Cell Phone: (____) _____ - _____

HER Cell Phone: (____) _____ - _____

HIS Email: _____

HER Email: _____

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PRAYER/INFORMATION REQUEST

Requested by: _____
 Last Name _____ First Name _____

Please Keep Prayer Request Confidential (Staff and Elders Only)

You will find a copy of the last week's prayer requests in the Lobby.

I want to dedicate/rededicate my life to Jesus

I would like to be baptized

I would like to find out more about *membership* at The Branch

I would like help in finding a small group

GETTING INVOLVED

1| Become a Member: Attend an Orientation

Membership helps us identify those who are committing to The Branch, and helps you find ways to get involved. The Branch Orientation is offered once a month on Sundays from **10:45 am to 1:30 pm. Lunch and childcare provided.**

Upcoming Orientation dates are:

Watch for upcoming 2012 Dates

For more information, check the box on the communication card. Register online, or contact Paula Braugh at pbraugh@thebranch.org or 972-284-7823.

2| Grow in Core PRACTICES:

Pray daily

Read the Bible daily

Attend Celebration Worship weekly

Although we have several services to choose from, we encourage you to choose one service time to commit to attending consistently.

Connect with believers in a *small group* regularly

We have a variety of small groups that meet for friendship, Bible study, and prayer. To find a group near you, check the box on your communication card or check out the map on our website.

Tell others of your experience with God

Invite others to engage in an intimate relationship with God

There are invitation cards available in the lobby as well as email invitations that can be found on our website.

Contribute tithes and offerings to God

As a part of our worship each week, we take up a collection of tithes and offerings. We also have the option to accept contributions electronically on our website.

Exercise our talents to serve others

There are many opportunities to serve others at The Branch. The back of this program has a list of contacts for each of our ministry areas.

Speak honorably of others

online giving
 set up one-time or recurring gifts
www.thebranch.org

Connect with us on
www.facebook.com/TheBranchChurch

LAST WEEK

Attendance: 1541
 Contribution: \$ 76,265
 Budget: \$ 59,615
 Average To-Date: \$ 60,984

One To Grow On

Total Committed: \$ 4,927,350
 Total Given: \$ 3,851,579

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to *Bret and Emily Ellis* on the birth of their daughter, **Audrey Mae**, born December 6th. Grandparents are Ron and Mary Beth Cash.

MORE INFORMATION

You will find the following in the lobby:
 Prayer Requests - Monthly Birthday Sheet
 Wedding and Baby Shower Information

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Location of Event
FB Farmers Branch Campus
VR Vista Ridge Campus
 Registration **ONLINE**

DECEMBER

- FB VR** 11 Joy! A Shout Out
- FB** 18 Financial Peace Preview Session
- VR** 23 Candlelight Service 7:00 pm
- FB VR** 24 Candlelight Services 5:00 pm VR 7:00 pm FB
- FB VR** 25 Candlelight Services 9:00 am FB 10:45 am VR

UPCOMING 2012 DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan 1 Start new Read The Bible Daily in 2012
- Jan 8 Financial Peace Preview Session
- Jan 15 Small Group Cycle begins
- Jan 18 Baptism Class
- Feb 12 WOW/Young At Heart Valentine Luncheon
- Feb 17 Princess Ball
- Feb 24/25 Marriage Seminar
- Mar 30/31 Men's Retreat



Christmas Cookies on 12/23 & 12/24

We will be sharing cookies and hot drinks with our family and guests on the 23rd and 24th. If you could provide some tasty homemade cookies, please drop them off at the office of the Farmers Branch Campus by Friday, December 23rd, at 12:00 noon.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace UNIVERSITY
Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is now available at The Branch. There will be a **20-minute preview on December 18 and on January 8 at 10:15 am** at the Farmers Branch Campus in the Spiritual Formation room. Classes will meet at the Farmers Branch Campus on Sundays from 5:00 - 7:00 pm beginning January 15, 2012.

Cost for the class is \$100, and that includes a lifetime membership for retaking the class. For more information, please contact Marc Farmer at fpu1@marcandvangie.com.

2011 HOLIDAY EVENTS



Second Annual Joy! A Shout Out Christmas Angel Tree Project **FB VR** Sunday, December 11, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Remember, we need your items by this Sunday, December 11th.

This Sunday at 4:00 pm, we will have our second annual family event, Joy! A Shout Out, at both campuses. Bring tape and scissors, and join us as we wrap all of the Angel Tree gifts.

We will have dinner together.

Farmers Branch Campus, please bring side dishes (no dessert).
Vista Ridge Campus, please bring dessert only.



December 23, 24, and 25 Candlelight Services

The Christmas season is upon us, and this year our Christmas Service schedule will look a little different than in years past. Because

December 25th falls on a Sunday this year, we have planned five Candlelight Services spanning the entire Christmas weekend. Each service will have the same message, communion, and the traditional candle lighting. There will be no Kids Branch or staffed nursery that weekend, but the services will be condensed, and the nursery facilities will be available in case you need them.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our Christmas Candlelight Services.

Friday, Dec. 23rd, 7:00 pm at Vista Ridge Campus

Saturday, Dec. 24th, 5:00 pm at Vista Ridge Campus

Saturday, Dec. 24th, 7:00 pm at Farmers Branch Campus

Sunday, Dec. 25th, 9:00 am at Farmers Branch Campus (Voices Only)

Sunday, Dec. 25th, 10:45 am at Vista Ridge Campus

Read the Bible Daily in 2011

Reading for Week 50:

- Dec. 11 Philemon; Hebrews 1-4
- Dec. 12 Hebrews 5-8
- Dec. 13 Hebrews 9-11
- Dec. 14 Hebrews 12-13; Jude
- Dec. 15 James 1-5
- Dec. 16 1 Peter 1-5
- Dec. 17 2 Peter 1-3; John 1
- Dec. 18 John 2-4



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