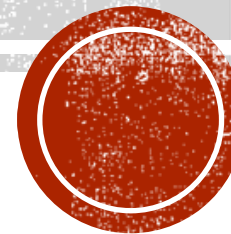


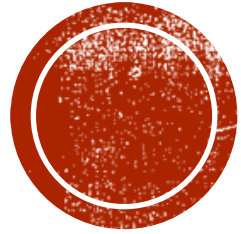
TESTIMONIES: LET'S HAVE MORE

First Presbyterian Church of Ipswich MA

Adult Sunday School Fall 2022

Led by Charles Wagner





INTRODUCTION

Class, Instructor Introduction

PURPOSE OF CLASS

- To strategize as a group how more believers can prepare and share their testimonies with a world that is starving for hope.



NOT-SO-HIDDEN AGENDA

- That two or more individuals from this class express their desire to prepare and share their testimony for the first time.



COURSE AGENDA

Class	Date
1. Know what you believe about testimonies	July 31, 2022
2. Yes, you have a testimony to share	September 11, 2022
3. Does the Bible tell us to share our testimonies?	September 18, 2022
4. Testimonies for evangelism	September 25, 2022
5. Testimonies for discipleship	October 2, 2022
6. TBD	October 9, 2022
7. Testimony tips and insights	October 16, 2022
8. The structure of a useful testimony	October 23, 2022
9. A vision for a new testimony-friendly Christian culture	November 13, 2022



RECAP WEEK #1 – JULY 31, 2022

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT TESTIMONIES

- Class Introduction
 - Less than 3% of church websites share testimonies
 - When people are discouraged...
 - What do they want to hear?
 - What do they don't want to hear?
 - What should they hear?
 - Who has credibility to speak to them?
 - What testimonies do we know in our social circles?
 - Charles Wagner's testimony. It's ok to be vulnerable.
 - Exodus 18:7-11
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- Recording available upon request



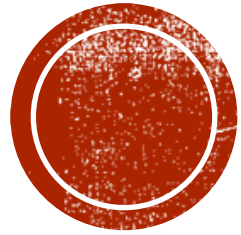
WEEK 2 OF 8: SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

YES, YOU HAVE A TESTIMONY TO SHARE

- **Goal for Class:** Nobody leaves them room today doubting they have a testimony
- **Agenda:**

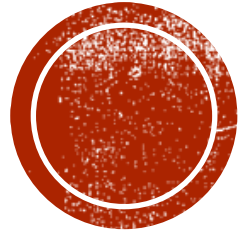
Item	Time
Class, Introduction, Prayer	5 minutes
Nothing Special About My Story	6 minutes
Unpacking The White Lie	6 minutes
What We Deserve	9 minutes
What Christ Did For Us	9 minutes
Defeatism	2 minutes
The Celebration	6 minutes
Closing Prayer	2 minutes





PRAYER





NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY



NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY

“Charles, it is clear to me from your first testimony class that God loves you. He rescued you and delivered you from divorce, depression, suicidal ideation, financial crisis, grief, and health crisis. You are now serving Him in ministry.”

“However, I’ve never experienced God’s love like that. I have had a stable life without much heartache or hardship. It’s hard for me to see God’s love in my life like I see His love in your life. It’s hard for me to see that I have a testimony.”



NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY

My dear friend exposed how many of us think about testimonies. God's love is evident in our life only by some **miraculous rescue**. For there to be a miraculous rescue, **our life needs to be in peril of some kind**. When we don't experience serious crises in our lives, we believe a miraculous rescue is impossible. Therefore, we have no story to tell of God's amazing love.



NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY



NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY



“Normal” Christians. No drama. No crisis. No peril. Mundane lives.
No testimony.



NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY



“Normal” Christians. No drama. No crisis. No peril. Mundane lives.
No testimony.

Former drug addicts.
Alcoholics. Felons.
Attempted suicide.
Sexually immoral.



NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY



“Normal” Christians. No drama. No crisis. No peril. Mundane lives.
No testimony.

God’s rescue,
deliverance,
restoration,
healing,
renewal.

Former drug addicts.
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NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY



“Normal” Christians. No drama. No crisis. No peril. Mundane lives.
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Amazing Testimony

God’s rescue,
deliverance,
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healing,
renewal.

Former drug addicts.
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Attempted suicide.
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NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY



“Normal” Christian
No testimony.

No peril. Mundane lives.



The blessings of an obedient life

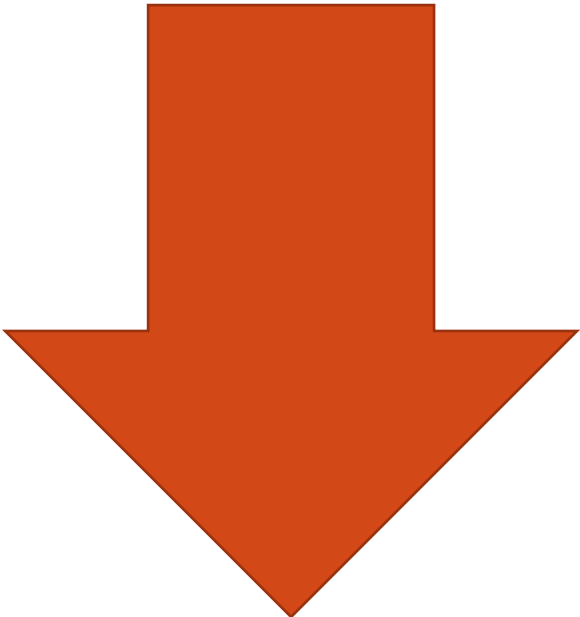
Amazing Testimony

God’s rescue, deliverance, restoration, healing, renewal.

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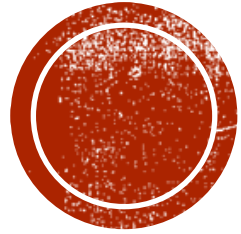
NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT MY STORY



Every Person in This Room – A Former Rebel from Almighty God.

Former drug addicts.
Alcoholics. Felons.
Attempted suicide.
Sexually immoral.





UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

What is a white lie?



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

Disguising a lie by covering it over with a truth.



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

What does society think of a white lie?



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

What **REALLY** is a white lie?



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

**Rebellion from
Almighty God!**



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

God said, “do not bear false witness.”



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

I say, “it’s ok to lie sometimes.”



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

My law is superior to God's law.



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

My law supersedes God's law.



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

My law is on the throne of my life,
not God's law.



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

I am the god of my life.



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

I determine whose law is best – mine or God's. This makes me God's judge!



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

*“But **rebels** and sinners shall be broken together,
and those who forsake the LORD shall be
consumed.”*

Isaiah 1:28



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

“But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.”

Isaiah 63:10



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

*“Therefore, thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have uttered **rebellion** against the LORD.’”*

Jeremiah 28:16



UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

“But the house of Israel **rebelled** against me in the wilderness. They did not walk in my statutes but rejected my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; and my Sabbaths they greatly profaned. “Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them in the wilderness, to make a full end of them.”

Ezekiel 20:13

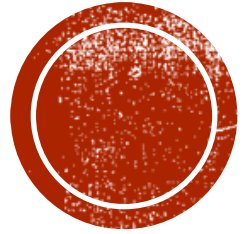


UNPACKING THE WHITE LIE

*“Woe to them, for they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, for they have **rebelled** against me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against me.”*

Hosea 7:13





WHAT WE DESERVE



WHAT WE DESERVE

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

Matthew 25:41



WHAT WE DESERVE

“They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.”

2 Thessalonians 1:9



WHAT WE DESERVE

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly...if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.”

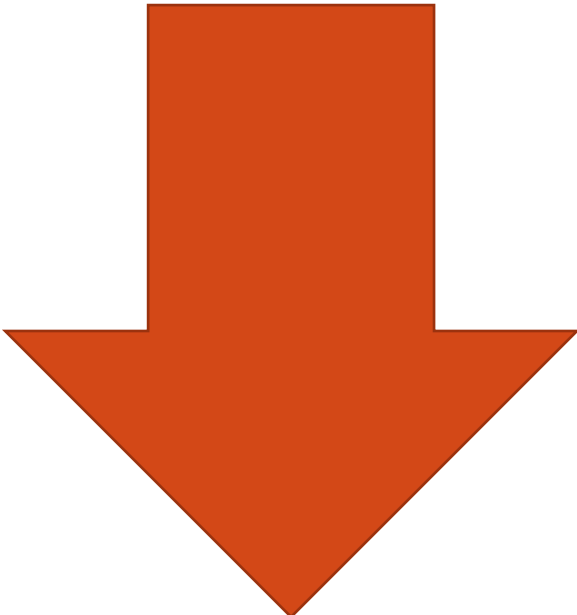


**WE DESERVE
HELL FOR
DARING TO
REBEL AGAINST
GOD. HELL IS
THE ABSENCE OF
GOD'S GOODNESS.**

- No cute animals.
- No sunlight or blue sky.
- No oceans or lakes.
- No cool breeze.
- No refreshing rain.
- No vegetation or flowers.
- No beautiful scenery.
- No delicious food or drinks.
- No rest or sleep.
- No music or art.
- No skills or talents.
- No quenching drinks.
- No doctors or medicine.
- No law and order.
- Perfect fear.
- Perfect anxiety.
- Perfect insecurity.
- Perfect hopelessness.
- Perfect suffering.
- Perfect loneliness.
- Perfect self-centeredness.
- Perfect meaninglessness.
- Perfect friendlessness.
- Perfect guilt and shame.
- Perfect violence.
- Perfect regret.
- Perfect weakness.
- Perfect failure.



WHO WE WERE BEFORE SALVATION

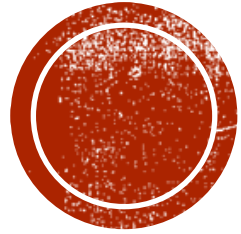


Rebels from God who deserved hell.



Former drug addicts.
Alcoholics. Felons.
Attempted suicide.
Sexually immoral.

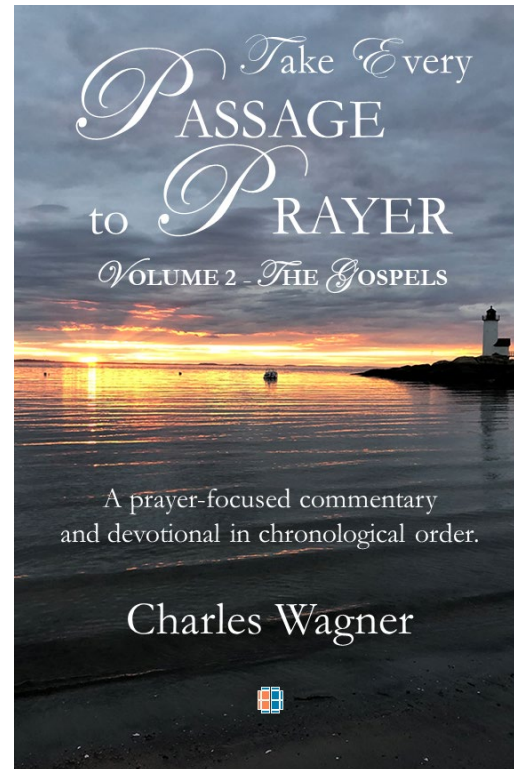




WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US



WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US



Page 453-455



WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US

“I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.”

Isaiah 44:22



WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

Acts 3:19



WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US

“For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”

Romans 5:10



WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

Galatians 3:13



WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”

Ephesians 1:7



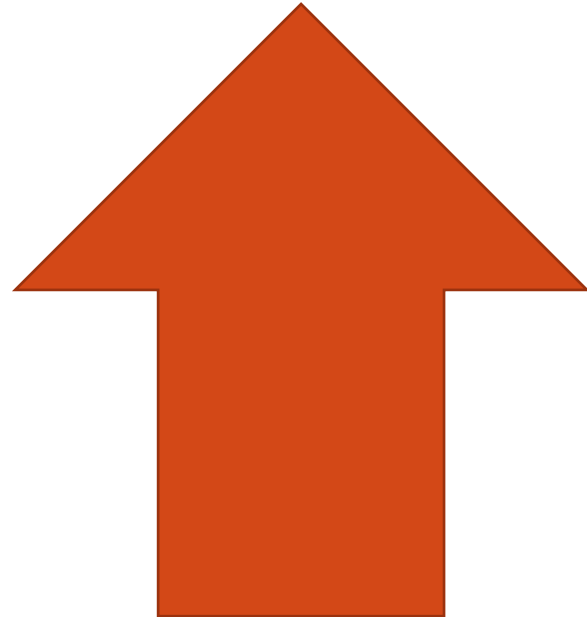
WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US

“But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.”

Colossians 1:22



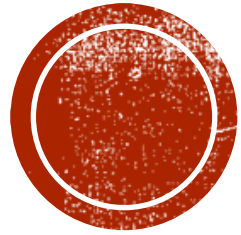
OUR TESTIMONIES AFTER SALVATION



Our testimonies of deliverance, rescue, healing, and restoration

Former drug addicts.
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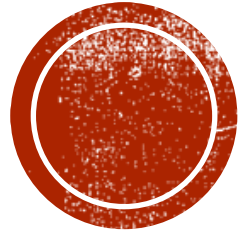
DEFEATISM



**I'M NOT
THANKFUL FOR
THE MERCY I
HAVE RECEIVED
FROM JESUS
CHRIST.**

- I have problems
- I have disappointments
- I have frustrations
- I have grievances against God.
- I have unanswered prayer.
- I have desires unfulfilled.
- I have experienced loss.
- I have experienced suffering.
- I have experience rejection.





CLOSING PRAYER

