**The Message Heard Round the World!**

*July 28, 2019*

 *Speaker: Grant Wright, Outreach Minister*

Good morning Church, my name is Grant Wright and I am the Outreach and Missions Minister at FCCC. Today I have the honor and privilege to speak to you.

We are going to start today by examining some pictures to see what these people have in common.

This is **Kevin,** he has been sent to **Colombia.**

**Michele,** she has been sent to **Haiti.**

**Heide,** Sent to **Honduras**

**Deborah,** Sent to **Uganda**

**Randy,** Send to **Nepal**

So what do these 5 people have in common? I think it’s obvious that all 5 individuals love to have their picture taken with the American flag, right? No seriously, these people have all be sent. Who has sent them? The USA. Yes, they all USA Ambassadors? So, what is an Ambassador? It is **a person who has been sent to a specific group of people as a representative to promote a specific message.**

Thus Kevin has been sent by the US to share our messages with Colombia… Do they get to **go anywhere in the world they want?** No, they have been assigned a location to focus on. Do they **get to say whatever they think or believe?** No, they represent the USA and they share the message they are told to convey.

Being an Ambassador is not just a government possession, it is also a term used to talk about **an important part of the Identity of a Christian. 2 Corinthians 5:20** says, “We are Christ’s ambassador’s, as though God were making his appeal through us.” Thus, as Ambassadors for Christ, God has given each of us a group of people and we are to share God’s message with this group. This is what it means to be an Ambassador for Christ.

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**Ronnie Norman at our new Member** info sessions tells about when people in the community ask him, **“What does your church do?”** He likes to say, “Well during the week we are school teachers, doctors, stay at home parents, business owners, mow people lawn, cut peoples hair. What they are asking is more in terms of Sunday morning, “What do we do?”, but as Ambassadors for Christ, Ronnie likes to remind them we are sent in the community to make an impact for Christ. What we DO doesn’t just happen on Sundays because ALL our church members are Sent and as they go they make a difference for Jesus. Our church does this in so many different ways.

We have so many Ambassadors at work:

* 80 Ambassadors Internationally each year
* 34 Ambassadors go to Honduras build 12 latrines and sharing the Gospel
* Ugandan Ambassadors, 17 day gospel campaign, 7 villages, 45 were baptized
* Nepal pastors shared 3,481 even in the face of imprisonment, 113 baptisms late quarter
* 100 active FriendSpeak Ambassadors, each week
* 60 Ambassadors going to our Children’s Ministry

One Children’s Ministry Ambassador, Missy Edgmon, has been teaching a group of 5th Graders, called the LIT Group. This stands for **Leaders In Training**. Missy is teaching these **young Ambassadors** how to GO on Gods mission and how to share their faith. In fact, they have been memorizing important scriptures to share their faith as Ambassadors of Christ. Today they have sent representatives from their class that are going to help me teach Christ’s message for an Ambassador.

**Come on up:**

**Maddux Spiegel**, son of Johnny and Laura Spiegel…

**Matthew Madonna,** son of Tim & Andrea Madonna...

Maddux/Matthew, would you get us started quoting Acts 1:8 for us?

Acts 1:8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Just as God used the Holy Spirit to lead Jesus’s followers to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and ends of the earth so God used the Holy Spirit to lead us on mission for Sugar Land, Houston, Texas and our 5 mission points (Nepal, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras & Uganda.)

So today, as Ambassadors for Christ, the Maddux/Matthew and I are going to share Christ’s message with you. For some today, **I pray it will be like God is calling to you, through us, as we speak for Christ.**

For others, I pray this will be a time to learn Christ message as his ambassador and you can take this message to the people God has put in your life.

We are going to be using a cube as a tool today. This cube is called an evangecube. We will use the evangecube to help us tell our story. The evangecube has proven to be an effective tool used all around the world. I have personally used it on 4 continents and see great success in each place. May Cucuta Colombia Team shared it with 481 people and 368 excepted Christ. If you want more information about getting a cube, you can see me at Volunteer Central after service or go to the link in the Order Of Worship.

God is light… perfect, no sin

Man is in darkness and has sin

Maddox/Matthew - How many sins did it take for Adam and Eve to get thrown out of the Garden? 1

Who here has sinned?

Maddox/Matthew – **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God.

We are separated for God…

God had a Plan…

**Flip to Jesus/Cross**

Maddox/Matthew - **John 3:16-18** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

Jesus came down from heaven and was obedient to his father. He lived a perfect, sinless life. His father asked him to Die on the cross to be the perfect sacrifice that would save ALL from ALL their sin! Jesus loves you so much that he obeyed his father’s command and went through the pain and suffering on the cross for you.

Romans 5: 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Flip to Jesus was buried in a tomb…**

After Jesus died they placed his body in a tomb and place a giant stone in front of it so that no one could get or out. They also place Roman solders outside of it to make sure no one could get in or out.

Maddox/Matthew - After 3 days do you know what happened?... HE ROSE FROM THE GRAVE!

**Flip to Jesus RISING…**

God did this to prove that Jesus was his Son and that he has power over life and death.

Maddox/Matthew - So is Jesus Dead? NO!

He as risen! We serve a living Jesus that sits at the right hand of God!

When Paul was writing to the church in Corinth he says…

1 Corinthians 15: 3-6 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:

Maddox/Matthew - that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, That he was burring, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve, After that he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time…

Let me tell you a short story…

 There was a man walking through the woods. He came to a valley with a raging river running through it. He was trying to figure out how to cross the river. It was too big to jump, so he looked for a way to build a bridge. He had lots of trees to use so he stared looking in his backpack for a saw, hammer, nails, rope but he did not have the tools**. He was stuck.** There was no way to get across.

 As he looked around in **helpless need of rescue** he saw something down the river in the distance. He turned from the way he was walking and headed the other way. As he approached he saw that it was a bridge. It was a beautiful, well build, strong bridge! **He was rescued!** All needed to do was walk across and he would be saved. **Someone has already done all the work for him…**

**Flip to the Cross is our Bridge**

Jesus tells us… John 14: 6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Now we have new picture… what do you see?

**Flip to the Hands**

Whose Hand is this? Jesus

Whose Hand is this? Ours

Maddox/Matthew - **Romans 6:23** For the Wage of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life.

Maddox/Matthew - How many sins did it take for Adam and Eve? 1

We deserve eternal punishment! But God loves us and he has a gift for ALL

**Candy Example**

**Ephesians 2:8-10.** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Maddox/Matthew – So how are we saved? By Grace, though our faith

Parable of the righteous man and the humble man before God…

“2 men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

13“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

14“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

**Flip back to First image or God separated from Man**

**Where is your heart today?**

We are all searching for ways like the man in the woods on how to get to God. How to find **peace and fulfilment** in our lives.

Examples of where we are looking for God: Education, Money, Relationships, Good Works, Drugs, Alcohol, YouTube, Netflix, Social media.

God had a Plan and it was a perfect plan!

**Flip back to Hands**

**John 20:30-31 –** Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Maddox/Matthew - **Romans 10:9-10** That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

You want to know the best part of this message? ....

It’s for All, Everyone. It doesn’t matter who you are or what you have done Jesus is seeking you! When God looked down on his Son when he was baptized He said, “This is my Son in whom I love. In Him I am well pleased!” And right now, he is looking down on you and saying **you are my son. You are my daughter. I love you!**

I want nothing more than to be with you forever for all eternity in heaven. Please take my hand… trust me… I will take care you now and forever. Come follow me…

I will give you life and life to the fullest.

The gift is yours! All you have to do is reach out and receive it.

Let’s Pray: