

“This World is a Beauty Pageant” (or “The Purpose of Time”) (10th in our series, Jesus Everywhere)

Ecclesiastes 3*

Pastor Peter Hiett

March 11th, 2012

**All scriptures are ESV unless otherwise noted.*

Sermon

In Ecclesiastes 3:18, King Solomon, Son of David, writes

¹⁸I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them...

We’re being tested. So let’s have a test. Pop Quiz.

1. Take out a pen or a pencil and on the back of the sNews sign your name legible, in the upper right hand corner. Now list the *Ten Commandments* in order.

[Jeopardy Music]

2. There appears to be some hesitation and I understand – it’s about the Law, right? So instead...I’d like you to write an essay:

“Discuss the implications of supralapsarianism on Atonement Theory in relation to a doctrine of Prevenient Grace.”

[Jeopardy Music]

3. Still you’re hesitating and I understand why. Christianity isn’t just an idea. So instead of an essay, write down *“Five Beautiful Things You Did This Week”* and then we’ll judge them....

Actually we’re having a Talent Show in April. Why don’t we turn it into a Beauty Pageant? You know the words “goodness” and “beauty” are often interchangeable in the language of the Bible. God is testing us and He must be testing our Beauty so let’s have a Beauty Pageant. Just think, you could win and I could sing, *“There she is - Miss Sanctuary. There she is – your Ideal. There she is – walking on air. She is fairest of the fair, she is Miss Sanctuary.”*

You get the idea. And here’s some ideas for the Talent Show.

Clip for *Drop Dead Gorgeous*

Emcee: *And now here’s the moment we’ve all been waiting for – the Talent Competition.*

Contestant comes out onto the stage and sings *“Give my Regards to Broadway.”*

Contestant comes out and does a tap dance.

Contestant comes out and does a gymnastics routine.

Gladys Leeman (Kirstie Alley): *It is with overwhelming pride that I introduce to you, contestant number 6, who is also the President of her class 2 years running, Honor Roll student, and the new president of the Lutheran Sisterhood Gun Club. Ladies and gentlemen Rebecca Ann Leeman.*

Rebecca Leeman: *You know what? The rumors are true. I do have a special fellow in my life and if nobody minds, I’d like to sing a little song just for him. “You’re just too good to be true. Can’t take my eyes off of you.”* A doll that looks like Jesus on the crucifix is rolled out onto the stage. Rebecca begins to dance as she rolls the crucifix around on the stage.

Gladys Leeman: *Finally the moment that I know I’ve been waiting for...for the scholarship of \$500, courtesy of Leeman Furniture, an all-expense paid trip next weekend, when she will be competing for the title of Sara Rose Cosmetics Minnesota American Teen Princess. Our new Mount Rose American Teen Princess is contestant number...oh, oh, it’s my daughter Rebecca Ann Leeman.*

Rebecca: *Thank you so much.*

Gentleman singing: *Here she is, our Mount Rose American Teen Princess...*

You know the problem with Beauty Pageants is that they can often be so...ugly.

Now if you've been in a beauty pageant, don't think I'm picking on you. This world is a beauty pageant.

- A. If you're a student, you're in a beauty pageant. An "A" is beautiful and summa cum laude is how you win that pageant.
- B. If you're in business, you win it with stock options and bank accounts.
- C. If you're a mom, you win it with beautiful, well-behaved children.
- D. Sports is a beauty pageant and Jesus can help you win.

Jesus can make your family beautiful, your finances beautiful, your mind beautiful – He can help you win.

Clip from *Saturday Night Live*, December 10, 2011

Tebow character: *And also I gotta thank the most important person in my life, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, because I could not do this without Him. Thank you, Jesus.*

Fog forms outside the locker room doors. Jesus character walks through the doors.

Jesus character: *Hello everybody.*

Tebow character: *Jesus! He has risen!*

Jesus character: *No, no, no...not really, just a quick visit. So, hey everybody take a seat. Go ahead, take a seat. Chill out. First of all, you're welcome. Yes, I Jesus Christ am indeed the reason you've won your past 6 football games.*

Player #75: *So Jesus just spends His time helping people win football games.*

Jesus character: *Well you know here's the thing. I just go where people call me the most. Now a days that's a lot of football games, also the Country Music Awards – you know I decide all of those. I'm right there at any Black event where food is served.*

Player #75: *Hey man!*

Jesus character: *I'm sorry. I'm forgiven. You see the point is you guys gotta help yourselves a little. I mean can you do that for me?*

All the players nod and say that they can.

Jesus character: *Well anyhow, I'm off to a beauty pageant. Best of luck next week. I'll try to watch.*

Now I really love Tebow 'cause he thanks Jesus when they win and when they lose, but the skit does make a point and that is:

Making yourself beautiful at the expense of another's beauty just isn't that beautiful.

And using Jesus to make yourself beautiful doesn't make the ugliness go away – perhaps it makes it worse.

Maybe we don't understand what really beauty is.

I read about a cosmetics company that held a beauty contest by mail. People were to mail in photos of women they considered beautiful along with a short letter explaining why. A young boy from a broken home wrote the following:

A beautiful woman lives down the street from me. I visit every day. She makes me feel like the most important kid in the world. We play Checkers and she listens to my problems. When I leave she always yells out the door that she's proud of me. ...I hope I have a wife as pretty as her.

The president of the cosmetics company read the letter and then asked to see the picture. His secretary handed him a photo of a smiling, grey-haired, toothless old lady, in a wheel chair with a twinkle in her eye. The president smiled and said *"We can't use this woman. She'd show the world our products aren't necessary to be beautiful."* Of course he didn't use her photo in their promotional for beauty like that can't be bought – at least not by us.

I think the greatest beauty is making others beautiful. The most beautiful man I've ever knew was my dad. And as a young man, it was my Youth Pastor, Gary Reddish. Gary was so funny, so cool and so encouraging to me. I think that's why I became a pastor – to be like them.

- I wanted to make myself beautiful by making others beautiful.
- I wanted to be the very best at it – that is I wanted to be the most humble.
- I wanted sacks full of letters from grateful, underprivileged kids.
- I wanted (and still want) to make myself more Christ-like than anyone. In fact I use Christ to do that.

In other words, I want to win the Beauty Pageant, called Religion and yet often there's nothing more ugly than religion. Read your Bible closely and you'll see: Religion is the very thing that got Christ crucified and nothing is more ugly than that.

Well Solomon wrote *"God is testing us."* So how do we pass the test? How can we make ourselves beautiful?

Ecclesiastes, chapter 3 (these verses should be familiar)

3¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: [God made time...for what?]

²a time to be born, and a time to die; [Did God make death? Genesis 1 states that everything God made was good (that is beautiful). I don't think God made Death – there's nothing to make. Death is an absence – not a substance – Death is the absence of Life. God didn't make Death, but He made a time and space for Death. Death is ugly.]

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; [Scripture says weeping lasts for the night and joy comes in the morning. Also, He turns our mourning into dancing. That's probably a euphemism for making love.]

⁵a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time to war, and a time for peace.

"A time to love and a time to hate." It sounds like He's saying *"a time for the absence of love."* *"A time for peace and a time for war."* A time for the absence of peace. Jesus is the "Prince of Peace." The Absence of Peace and Absence of Love is like the Absence of God and I think that's Evil.

Well...did God make Evil? No. However, He must've made time and space for Evil, even Evil in us – that's called sin. You'll notice that all these are things that people do or think they choose

to do... We think we can change things but Solomon seems to be saying “*It’s all been set*” (Hate – Love; War – Peace; Ugly – Beauty) which leads to this question.

⁹*What gain has the worker from his toil? [What can we do??] ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time.*

If God makes “*everything beautiful in its time*” what’s the purpose of our time? What’s the test? God makes everything beautiful in its time – everything. That’s clearly a reference to Genesis, chapter 1 and the six days in which God creates all things. On the Seventh Day it’s all good, all beautiful, all finished. Yet look around – this world isn’t all finished.

Before Jesus was crucified, in John 5:17, He said “*My Father has been working until now.*” That means He had never stopped working and that means, in this world, it still wasn’t or isn’t the Seventh Day which means God is still making things beautiful in time. The Seventh Day must be the end of Time and edge of Eternity. Jesus said that He came to give us Eternal Life and that must be some really beautiful life. Well on the Cross, at the end of the Sixth Day, He cried “*It is finished.*”

Verse 11

¹¹*He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.*

Eternity in our hearts with time on our hands. In the Hebrew mind, Eternity is the presence of all time - the fullness of time when we’re no longer stuck in time but the masters of time. I think it was C. S. Lewis that pointed out how we are all so amazed at time and yet we live in time. We say “*I can’t believe I’m 50 – it seems like only yesterday that we were kids.*” We’re constantly amazed at time and yet we live in time. We’re like a fish constantly amazed at being wet. That would make no sense, unless that fish was destined to one day walk on land. Perhaps we’re destined for Eternity – but being created in time.

Verse 12

¹²*I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil – this is God’s gift to man. [It sounds like I can’t change a thing but maybe I can enjoy a thing. If I trust God will make all things beautiful in time. I can’t change it...but maybe I can enjoy it...by Faith. Next verse -] ¹⁴I perceived that whatever God does endures forever... Ecclesiastes 3:12-14*

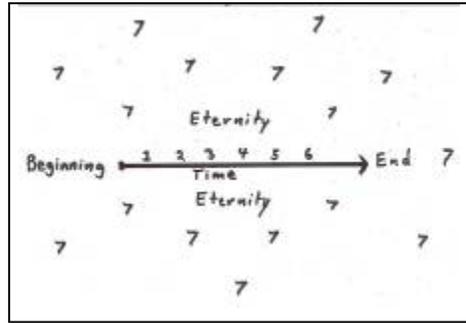
Forever - that’s the same word that gets translated as “*eternity*” in verse 11 “*whatever God does endures forever.*” And what does God do? He makes all things beautiful in time. And those beautiful things Endure Forever. They are Eternal.

- So, the ugly is temporal and the beauty is Eternal.
- The weeping is temporal, but the laughter it turns into is Eternal.
- The mourning is temporal, but the dance it turns into is Eternal.
- The doubt is temporal, but the Faith is Eternal.
- Despair temporal, but Hope Eternal.
- Hatred temporal, but Love Eternal.
- Sin temporal, but Grace Eternal.

- Death temporal, but Life Eternal.

Like an eternal Harvest of Beauty grown in the temporal, dirty and broken soil of this world. The ugly soil of this world produces an indestructible harvest of Beauty. And that means there must be some sort of eternal repository for all of this indestructible beauty. And that must be the 7th Day, God's rest – Heaven.

Perhaps you remember this picture from our study on Genesis and Revelation (which is all on our website).



But God is creating or revealing Eternity in time. So time is a stage, for Eternity, for the Revelation of Beauty...a pageant if you will – but not a contest.

Verse 14

¹⁴I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, [And what does God do? "Makes everything beautiful in its time" which leaves how much for you to make beautiful in your time? – Nothing.] so that people fear before him. ¹⁵That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been;...

Ecclesiastes 3:14-15

That means everything in time is fixed and predetermined - every temporal thing.

But Jesus said *"The one who believes has Eternal Life."*

So a believer is like a prisoner of time, with Eternity in the heart – a slave, yet Free.

...I wonder what that would look like?

¹⁵That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

Ecclesiastes 3:14-15

"What has been persecuted and driven away."

Jesus said He came to *"seek and to save the lost"* - literally "the perished." It appears He won't stop until all that are "driven away" have been made beautiful in their time – their time; different than your time – but they still have a time.

So God is the Creator; God is the Savior; and God is the Doer of all things. Like Julian of Norwich saw in her vision: *Sin is no-thing and God does all things. God is the only "doer."*

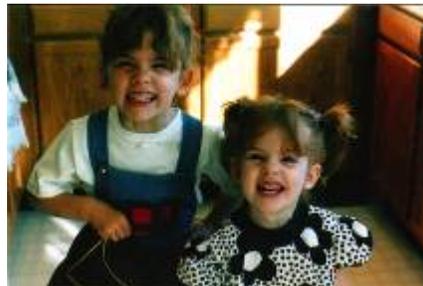
Jesus, Prince of Peace, said *"apart from me, you can do nothing."*

Solomon, Prince of Peace, said *"God makes all things beautiful in time. Nothing can be added and nothing taken away."*

God does it and if you believed that, why would you do anything?? If you really believed that there was no beauty you needed to make and no Beauty Pageant you needed to take and win – why would you be beautiful and why would you do anything?

Have you ever met a two-year old? Do they do things? Are they beautiful?

Yeah. Now there's some ugliness I know, but also this outrageous beauty, beyond my ability to describe. I remember just being amazed at the absolute beauty of my kids when they were 2 or so. I wanted to write down every word they said; make a movie of everything they did. They were absolutely, stunningly beautiful – yet they didn't try to be beautiful. They were unaware of their beauty or the weight of their beauty – so they just enjoyed their beauty; loved to display their beauty for me.



Singing for me; dancing for me; a Beauty Pageant for me. But they never tried to make themselves beautiful. They didn't have to be beautiful – they just were beautiful; their beauty was free.

Maybe you can't make yourself beautiful,
you can only be beautiful.

Maybe you can't make yourself good,
you can only be good.

Well there came a day when they, like, covered it up; wrapped it in fig leaves. They lost that outrageous, unadulterated, and free beauty. They lost – Beauty; when they gained the Knowledge of Beauty and began to try to make themselves beautiful. It was when they entered the Beauty Pageant that we call "This World." When they entered the Beauty Pageant, they lost Beauty and no longer simply enjoyed being beautiful.

They sang, but not for the Joy of singing; they begin to sing in order to get approval. They began to dance 'cause they were in a class and received a grade. If the put on a beauty pageant, it wasn't to enjoy their beauty but to compete for beauty and win the pageant.

Maybe that's why we have such a problem with beauty pageants for little girls. My children lost beauty when they felt responsible for Beauty – maybe we all did.

Well Jesus said *"You must become like little children to enter...."*

One day we'll be like little children...yet not little children, for we'll know something little children don't know. We'll know the weight of Beauty and yet we'll still be able to dance for we'll know Beauty is a Gift. We'll know Grace.

Verse 16

¹⁶Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. [That is, everything in this world is a mixture of beauty and ugliness; good and bad; righteousness and wickedness.] ¹⁷I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work. [Literally "There is a time for everything and every deed is there." That is there is an eternal moment – called Judgment – when all the ugliness and beauty of this world and our time will be exposed.] ¹⁸I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see...
Ecclesiastes 3:16-18a

Now stop right there – this is Hope. God is testing us...but not so that He might see something, like, who gets saved

Or – who remembered the *Ten Commandments*;

Or – who could write a satisfactory essay on the meaning of Grace;

Or – who had sufficiently beautiful good deeds to win the Beauty Pageant.

The purpose of time is not to inform the Creator about His Creation.

God does everything; God knows everything.

God is not testing us to learn anything!!!

God is not testing us in order that He might see;

God is testing us in order that we might see...

God did not put the tree in the middle of the Garden

in order that He might "see" something about us.

God put the tree in the middle of the Garden

in order that we might "see" something about Him and ourselves.

Solomon writes "*God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts.*"
They themselves are "*but beasts.*"

Now many of you, like me, wonder "*God what's my problem?*" People ask me "*Pastor what's my problem?*" Well here's the answer – "*You are a Butt Beast.*"

Verse 18

¹⁸...they themselves are but beasts. ¹⁹For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. ²⁰All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return.
Ecclesiastes 3:18-20

Like Abraham said to God "*I am but dust and ashes.*" A Butt Beast made of Butt Dust – that returns to dust and you need to see it for some reason.

We ourselves cannot make beauty and we cannot preserve beauty.

"*Glory days; oh they'll pass you by – Glory days.*"

My father was the most glorious, beautiful man I've ever known and I watched him turn to dust and we keep his ashes in a box. I'm watching Gary turn to dust – he has dementia. (It's made our relationship a bit rough the last several years.) Wednesday I went down and saw him at Porter Hospital. They have him in a bed, that's really a cage. He can't hold a thought for more

than a couple seconds. And yet I heard Gary mutter *"We just love the Lord, we love the Lord, we love the Lord."* He recognizes beauty and not his own – the Lord's. I got nothing against beasts, but I don't think they recognize beauty nor do they have Eternity in their hearts – like Gary.

If you took your dog to the Grand Canyon, she'd sniff the trash and have no concept of that timeless beauty, stretched out before her. We may have no advantage over the beast and yet God puts Eternity in our hearts and God is making us beautiful in time.

And maybe that also is the point of this Beauty Pageant called Time:

1. That I would see that I myself am a Beast but,
2. God is making me beautiful in time.

So at the end of Time, I will know my Beauty is a Gift. At the edge of Eternity I will see – I am created by Grace and thus rejoice in my Self – His beautiful Creation.

Hey....what if you did win the test??? What if you wrote down all *Ten Commandments*? And wrote the best essay on the Doctrine of Grace? And performed the best deeds and won the Church Beauty Contest and I pointed you out and everyone sang *"There she is....Miss Sanctuary?"* How would you feel? How do you feel, when you pass a test or win an award?

You know if I think I preached a great sermon, I'm thrilled and immediately terrified. I think *"I can't do that. I can't maintain that – I can't be responsible for that beauty."*

If a sermon is ugly – I feel awful. And if a sermon is beautiful – I feel terrified. You know that feeling. Now contrast that feeling with the feeling you get when you see a great movie or hear a beautiful song or stand on the edge of the Grand Canyon. It's different, isn't it? The first is a beauty you think you made and the second is a beauty you just enjoy.

Well what if God really is making you beautiful?? How are you gonna enjoy the glory of your own awesomeness? It's no wonder that beautiful people like Marilyn Monroe and Whitney Houston can't seem to rest in their own beauty.

How are you gonna enjoy the glory of your own awesomeness, in Heaven?

St. Paul wrote *"these slight momentary afflictions prepare us for an eternal weight of Glory (of Beauty) beyond compare."*

How are you gonna enjoy the glory of your own awesomeness OR the glory of anyone else's awesomeness???

If I think I'm a contestant in a Beauty Pageant, responsible for my own beauty, I'll stress over my own beauty and I'll hate everyone else's beauty. I'll smile on the outside (like a good contestant), but hate beauty on the inside – hate Beauty - and what is Beauty anyway?

Solomon continues

²⁰...All are from the dust, and to dust all return. ²¹Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? ²²So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

Ecclesiastes 3:21-22

Who? Well that's where you and I have seen something Solomon had not yet seen. We've seen Beauty Himself. We've seen the End of Time. We've seen the One who died and rose again.

"Before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust" writes David, Solomon's father, in Psalm 22. All space and time is a stage, set for the Revelation of Him, that we might see Him and He is Beauty.

It was the religious folks, trying to win the Beauty Pageant that grew jealous of His Beauty and so hated His Beauty and so took His Beauty on the Tree – making themselves ugly as beasts. They took His Beauty and yet He gave His Beauty and that is the essence of Beauty: Giving Beauty away.

And He really gave it not to get it but to give it.
He cried *"Father Forgive them"* and *"My God why have you forsaken me?"* for He really bore our sin to destruction and gave us His Beauty. Then He cried *"It is finished"* and there: Beauty is finished.

"For in Him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell," writes Paul, *"through Him to reconcile to Himself all things whether on Earth or in Heaven; making Peace by the Blood of His Cross."* And now God has highly exalted Him above all things. (Glorified Him. That is revealed His Beauty.) But at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow and every tongue give praise. Through Jesus Christ and Him crucified, God gives Himself away and makes all things beautiful in time – Dad, Gary, Me, You.

[Image of Jesus on the cross]

So this is the winner of the Beauty Pageant. The One who would choose to lose that all might be beautiful. This is the purpose of space and time. This is why you're being tested.

So that you might see Him passing the test;

that you might see Him – crucified for you and by you;

that you might see you're a beast and He is the Beauty;

that you might watch Him give you His Beauty;

that you might be filled with Beauty (in the very image of God)

a creature of unspeakable Beauty;

and yet able to bear that Beauty and delight in that Beauty because you know, that Beauty is Grace. God has done it and it can't be taken away.

See? With these *"slight momentary afflictions;"* with this world of trials and testing – God is giving you, yourself. God is preparing you to enjoy the gift of your own awesomeness and the gift of everyone else's awesomeness.

Heaven is this ecstatic, wild and endless dance of shared awesomeness. I think we call it Love. God is Love and Love is Beauty and we will be Beauty full. It begins here, when we stop trying to make ourselves beautiful and begin to see Beauty –

Beauty is Grace.

One of my favorite movies is *Little Miss Sunshine*. In the movie, every character is trying to make themselves beautiful and failing miserably – Mom, Dad, Grandpa, Uncle Frank, Dwayne and 7-year old Olive, who happens to qualify for the *"Little Miss Sunshine Pageant."* Because of

finances and circumstance, the whole dysfunctional family drives across the country with Olive to enter her in the Pageant. Her Grandpa teaches her a dance routine and then dies of a heroin overdose on the way to the Pageant. No one bothers to check the dance routine that Grandpa taught Olive before the Pageant. But when Olive starts to dance, they all forget themselves and the ugly little worlds that they have created. They all forget themselves and choose to lose with Olive and that's how they all become beautiful.

Clip from *Little Miss Sunshine*

Olive Hoover: *I'd like to dedicate this to my Grandpa who showed me these moves.*
Emcee: *Oh that is so sweet. Is he here? Where is your Grandpa right now?*
Olive: *In the trunk of our car.*
Emcee: *Okay. Well take it away Olive.*
Olive begins to dance to a song *"She's a very kinky girl..."*
One of the judges goes up the Olives parents and says
Judge: *What is your daughter doing? Get off! Get her off the stage! I want her off. Go get her. Right now, right this minute!*
Olive's dad, Richard Hoover: *Don't touch my daughter.*
Olive continues to dance as Emcee tries to grab her. Olive's dad goes up on the stage.
Richard Hoover: *Hey! Hey, let go of my daughter. Just let her finish.*
Olive's dad grabs the Emcee.
Emcee: *Get off of me.*
Richard: *Daddy's okay.*
Judge: *Get your daughter off this stage right now! Now!*
Richard begins to dance with Olive on the stage. Friend and Dwayne both join them on the stage and dance. Then Olive's mom goes up on the stage to dance with all of them. The music is stopped and slowly one or two people begin to clap and then there is silence. One man stands up and cheers but everyone else is silent.

Communion

And so on that most ugly of all nights, He took bread and He broke it saying *"This is my body given to you. Take and eat and do this in remembrance of me."* And in the same way, after supper and having given thanks, He took the cup and He said *"This cup is the Covenant, in my blood; poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it, all of you, and do it in remembrance of me."* On that ugliest of nights, He made us all beautiful 'cause this is where the dance begins; where the Father comes to dance with His broken children and bring us home.

Let's pray. Pray these words, if you can. You can just pray them in your heart after me. *"Lord Jesus, thank you for bearing my sin to destruction in the circumcision of your flesh that we talked about last week. Thank you that you give me your Beauty, your Life. Thank you for my incredibly, glorious, unspeakable, and awesome Beauty because Lord Jesus, you are my Beauty. It is finished. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."*

So come forward; tear off a piece of the bread; believe the Gospel and Live.

Benediction and Prayer

You just heard the Word. You just came to the Communion Table. You just sang to Jesus and I think Jesus want to sing to you. So this is what I want you to do. I want you to close your eyes and not say a word and listen to Jesus. I think he'll sound a little like Justin but Jesus is singing to you. Just let Him sing to you.

(Justin singing "*You are Beautiful*")

You know the Bible says that we are seated in the Heavenly Places with Him. And that last line, I forgot about that line, "*And Holy God, to whom all praise is due.*" But Jesus is the one that even said it, that Scripture calls you gods and we're not God and yet you just came to the Communion table and placed the Life of God within yourself. We sing songs like "*No one is like you Jesus*" and yet Scripture tells us that He is making us like Himself. And then at the beginning of time God said "*Let us make man in our own image and likeness.*" So I do think that Jesus stands in awe of you because He made you. You are His masterpiece and you see you must believe that He makes you beautiful. I don't say that to, like, encourage; I say that as a command. You must believe that God makes you beautiful or you will make yourself ugly and everyone around you ugly and that creates a place (and I believe it's a real place) called Hell. Jesus came to conquer Hell. And what is Hell, it's a place where people close their eyes and they do not listen to the voice of God singing over them – "*I made you. You're beautiful. You are my creation; more beautiful than gold, more precious than silver.*"

And so in the name of Jesus, believe the Gospel and live. Amen

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