



**Empowering People to Change the World**

**Never Enough**

**Kyle Digiacomo**

**Kyle Digiacomo, The Road @ Chapel Hills**

## Never Enough

The title of my message today is “Never Enough.” And, cue the song from *The Greatest Showman*; who can belt that one out for me? Yes, and the great line from that song: “All the shine of a thousand spotlights, all the stars we steal from the night sky, will never be enough.” Has Hollywood ever spoken truer words? And, yet, they keep pursuing it...and, yet, WE keep pursuing it.

Temporary satisfaction, momentary fulfillment, fleeting pleasures. The Amazon package is at the door; ah, that feels good...Well, time to order another. That big bonus check just hit the bank account; ah, that feels good...Well, time to earn another. Record number of likes on Instagram; ah, that feels good...Well, time to do it again. Am I wrong? Anybody here honest enough to admit it? Now I’m not saying it is all bad. The Lord loves to bless His children, and I think He loves to see delight in our eyes, just like we do our own children. What I’m talking about is when we rely upon that stuff for our fulfillment, sense of purpose, and even our salvation, rather than relying on our walk with the Lord.

My thesis for today is that stuff will never be enough to satisfy your desires, and your performance will never be enough to satisfy the Lord’s requirements. A good concluding statement for today’s message would be: “Only Christ is enough.”

**“Only Christ is enough.”**

**Ephesians 2:1**

Open your Bibles to **Ephesians 2:1-3** with me. *“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath just as the others.”*

“You HE made alive.”

Let’s go back and break that down. “And you HE made alive.” HE! It is HE who makes you alive! No item, feeling, friend, or momentary fulfillment can bring you from death to life. Only He can do that. Lift your voice with me and say “only He can do that.” Speak it into your spirit, get it past your flesh and your mind so that it actually sinks in. “Only He can do that.” HE made you alive. HE is the way to life.

In **John 10:10**, Jesus said, *“I” have come that they may have life and life abundantly.*” And I think our flesh looks at that verse and immediately thinks “ah, He has come to give me more stuff so I can finally live.” But I think He is saying, “I AM LIFE,” and life abundantly; I am here now. You may have Me, and in so doing, may have life abundantly.

He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." And any time we look to anything less than the Lord to bring us life, we are automatically setting ourselves up for disappointment. Only the Lord can create life. Nothing and nobody else.

Our verse says, "and you He MADE alive."

"You He MADE alive."

How did He MAKE you alive?

With the greatest irony in the world, the perfect and blameless God, the Creator of the universe, sent His perfect and blameless Son to die for us. And may we never for a second undervalue or downplay the single greatest act of love in all of humanity. As Scripture puts it, may we never treat what is holy as common and unholy.

How many of us can't even stomach the thought of **sending our child to die** for someone, much less someone who doesn't even like you or appreciate it?

And yet the Lord did that when we least deserved it. **Ephesians 2:5** says, "*Even when we were dead in trespasses...*" **Romans 5:7-8** says, "*Now most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*"

I think of that verse, and I think, wait a second, that happened 2,000 years before I was born. He didn't die for me while I was "STILL a sinner." He died for me **long before** I was born and could sin against Him. He died for me knowing that I would be born and sin against Him. Furthermore, He died for me knowing that **I would know** He died for me and still sin against Him!

Do you know anybody else that loves you that perfectly? Anyone else who loves you past your sins, and past the sins He knows you will commit against Him in the future? There is no one like our Jesus!

How many times do we reach for something less to satisfy, all the while knowing there is a Savior Who values us so highly, Who loves us so much, He literally laid down His life for us and is willing to walk with us and bring us true fullness of joy.

HE made you alive by dying for you in your worst moments. He died especially for the times when you reach for the stuff that wants to kill you. The sin, the temptation, the lust, anger, envy; you know your list. He took all of that to the grave with Him. He conquered it, and three days later, when He emerged from the grave, all that came with Him was the Spirit of the Living God. And as **Romans 8:13** says, "*If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will **live.***"

This leads us to the final word in our first verse "**ALIVE.**"

"You He made ALIVE."

**Kyle Digiaco, The Road @ Chapel Hills**

Is there anybody here who wants to truly live? Anybody sick of trying to find themselves, sick of trying to find the meaning of life, sick of trying to find their purpose? Is there anybody here who wants to truly live?

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

In **Psalm 16:11**, David says, "*You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*" In HIM, there are **true** joy and **true** pleasures forevermore, and the path to true life.

Anyone who is in Christ will **NEVER DIE**. If that's not abundant life, I don't know what is. Abundant life is not more stuff, money, or accomplishments; abundant life is an abundance of Christ.

"**Made ALIVE**" means you once were dead and now you're not. "How's your day going? Well, I was dead, but now I'm alive; so pretty darn good, I'd say!" I had a pastor in Chicago. He was an old timer; he has actually since passed. But, every time you'd ask him, "HB, how are you?" He would always reply with, "It's a great day to be alive, great day to be alive!" And he's right, another way to say it would be, "It's a great day to not be dead anymore!" He made you alive, who were dead.

And how were we dead? Who are you calling dead?

The verse says, "**dead in trespasses and sins.**" I naturally think, oh, that doesn't mean me with my little private sins. That means murderers and bank robbers; I don't struggle with that.... anymore. Just kidding. No, it means all sin, especially as verse 3 says, "*fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.*"

See, when we walk according to our fleshly desires, we are walking in death. We are quite literally, the walking dead. And I think God is saying, "I've got so much more for you. I have made you alive! Walk in that!"

I think of the quote from the movie "Speed" with Keanu Reeves, where he is about to go under the bus that's flying down the highway to try to diffuse the bomb. And the guy with him says, "Alright, this is it Jack, DON'T GET DEAD!" It's terrible English, but that's what is going to make it stick in your head this week. When you go to settle for something less than the Lord, just say to yourself, "Don't get dead!"

"Don't get dead."

You were already dead once, and He made you alive! Stay alive; don't get dead! Don't settle for temporary satisfaction, momentary fulfillment; it'll never be enough. The only thing that will ever be enough is the Lord.

Again, the first part of my thesis: Stuff will never be enough to satisfy your desires. "Only Christ is enough."

**Kyle Digiaco, The Road @ Chapel Hills**

And then this: Your performance will never be enough to satisfy the Lord's requirements.

Now, I know a lot of people hear that and cringe. And that's because we've been told all our lives how special we are, and how awesome it is that we can tie our own shoes. Don't worry, we have participation ribbons at the back. And you can send your rebuttals to [digiacom@youcantspellidigiacom.com](mailto:digiacom@youcantspellidigiacom.com). But first hear me out.

See, I think we have an innate desire to feel accomplished and to impress and be **proud of something**. Scripture says if you're going to boast, boast in the Lord. So obviously boasting is in us. As we've already talked about, we first want to satisfy our fleshly desires by amassing a bunch of stuff, or awards, or wealth. We want to impress ourselves and impress others. I know a pastor that used to say pretty much everyone's story goes like this, "I was walking along thinking I was too sexy for my shirt and then God dropped a boulder on my life and showed me I wasn't too sexy for my shirt!"

And when we travel that road long enough, we find out how empty it is; and then we finally realize, "wait a second, fulfillment is in the Lord." But the enemy doesn't quit tricking us at that point. See, so many of us then move from trying to impress ourselves and impressing others to then trying to impress God and trying earn His approval. Am I right? This is where hyper religiosity comes from. But we have Scripture, so we see how foolish Saul and the Pharisees and Sadducees looked; we know it's not funny outfits and rituals and piety.

So, we end up in the modern-day version of religiosity, which is ultimately just playing the Christianity game. And if I do enough Christian stuff and don't skip church too many times and put on a good Christian front, then maybe God will be impressed with me and will let me in or will bless me.

Or, if I put on a phony front of humility by constantly talking myself down, refusing to receive compliments, working my hands to the bone for little to no pay, and just let people roll over me, maybe, then, God will be impressed with me.

And if that sounds specific enough to be from experience, it's because it is; and I think many of you can relate. And I think most of us can relate with trying to impress God and satisfy a requirement that God has neither called nor equipped us to satisfy.

Let me quickly tell you a little bit about how God led me to this sermon. It started back when I was a kid, maybe five or six years old. I'm one of 10 kids. Yes, we were Catholic; not sure that had anything to do with it. Now, being an adult, I know that Catholic isn't what causes kids, it's something else... Anyways, growing up in a family that size I quickly realized there wasn't a whole lot of extra time, money, or attention to go around; so, I decided I didn't want to be a burden to my family. I wanted to help out as much as possible and stay out of the way, so I developed a sort of hyper independence.

I determined not to need anything from anyone. But what that meant was that if I was going to be successful, I was going to have to hold myself to incredibly high standards. I mean if I made an error in tee ball at age four, you couldn't talk to me for three days, I was so mad at myself.

And so, I started to think, well, if I have such high standards for myself, then surely God must have even higher standards for me. So, I basically made God into this micromanaging, angry, ego-maniac that was waiting for me to screw up so He could punish me.

Now, I have to say none of this was my parents' fault. When you're parenting 10 kids, if you make it to the end of the day and everyone is still alive and remembers which one they are, it's a successful day.

One nice thing about being in a family that size is if you get in trouble, and Mom goes to yell at you, she can't remember which one you are; so, by the time she makes it down the list to your name, you can be half way down the block.

Seriously though, my idea of God's standard as a kid sounded like "try harder, work harder, screwed that up again, when are you ever going to get it right?" And so, I basically made God into a big jerk who only gave grace, love, and mercy to those who earned it. Sad, right?

The enemy knows how to get us, especially as kids. That's why this is so critical, especially for you parents.

### **Ephesians 2:4**

Let's look back at Scripture. **Ephesians 2:4**, "*But God, Who is rich in mercy...*" Mercy has been defined as God not giving us what we do deserve. Scripture says we were all deserving of death. Thank God He doesn't give us what we "deserve," amen? And yet, how ironic that we get caught up trying to earn it from God. Trust me, you don't want the only thing you can earn or are deserving of in God's economy. Receive His mercy. Let down your guard, let down your unrelenting standards for yourself, and receive His mercy.

The verse goes on, "*because of His great love with which He loved us, EVEN WHEN we were dead in trespasses...*" Not only could we not earn it, but we were, in fact, DEAD. How valuable is a dead guy? How much of God's approval can a dead guy earn? None. The only thing a dead guy can do is vote.

Our verse continues, "*made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*" See, the Lord isn't waiting for you to work your way into becoming some **barely approved pathetic subject** in His Kingdom. It doesn't matter how hard you try, it won't work. Instead, He took care of it for you, and, in fact, promoted you to a far better seat in the Kingdom, "*in the heavenly places in Christ.*" Oh, that we would give up

useless striving and instead enjoy our seat in the heavenly places with Christ Jesus. Are you Martha or are you Mary? Are you working to earn God's approval or are you enjoying your seat with the King?

Our verse goes on, "*that in the ages to come He might show the **exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.***" Hopefully your view of the Lord is starting to shift to see He's not only not stingy, but is, in fact, infinitely generous toward his children.

And finally, we find ourselves in the **most liberating verse in the Bible**. "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*"

"*For by grace you have been saved through faith.*" There are **three gifts** in that verse. Do you see them? Grace, salvation, and faith. None can be earned, all are free, all are required. I love the **acronym for Grace**: God's Riches At Christ's Expense. We get all of God's riches because of the price Christ paid for us. We didn't earn it; we are incapable of earning it because the standard is perfection. The only thing that could pay the price for our sins was the blood of One who never sinned, and there has only ever been One. The only One who could ever earn us God's approval was Christ. No amount of Bible studies, good deeds, self-sacrifice, or whatever else is on your list could ever earn an iota of God's approval.

I have to tell you, a few weeks ago I found myself in a place where I was **wrestling with God**, day and night, because He was trying to bless me, and I didn't want the blessing His way. **I wanted to earn it myself**. And I want to be able to say my hard work has provided for my family; I don't want to have to accept other people's generosity. Such pride and arrogance. And thankfully a great friend and mentor of mine kept saying, "Dude receive the blessing; quit trying to do things the way the world does them just so you can beat your chest and say, look at what I accomplished." He said, "God has a different mission for your life than just conquering the American dream."

And God knew this was a hurdle I had to cross after having spent 30 years trying to prove myself, trying to earn my way, trying to need nobody, and trying to be enough. See, the enemy had been whispering in my ear my whole life, "You'll never be enough." And I always thought it was God saying that; but what the enemy intends for evil, the Lord can turn for good. And the Lord, in the most loving and liberating way, said to me "**Kyle, you'll never be enough; that's why I sent My Son.**"

And I wonder **how many here today need to be liberated** and finally settle with the fact that you'll never be enough. You'll never earn enough, or do enough, or whatever it is you're striving for to gain that approval you seek. And here's the best part; God said to me, "**I didn't call you to be enough; I called you to be loved.**" Ladies and gentlemen, you weren't called to be enough; you were called to be loved.

"You weren't called to be enough; you were called to be loved."

**Kyle Digiaco, The Road @ Chapel Hills**

Verse 8 says, “*by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*” See, the problem is that even if we could earn God’s holy approval on our own, we would **immediately resort to sinful boasting** and have to start all over.

Our verse concludes, “*for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them.***” Finally, we have properly defined **what is cause and what is effect**. See, for so long we thought that our good works earned us His love. But here, we finally see that His love is the cause and the good works are the effect. And the key factor is walking. Scripture says “*as you have received Him so walk in Him.*” That’s all that is required of us is to walk with the Lord and let Him cause in us the good works which He has set before us.

One final story. I had a dream when I was a kid, and it is a dream God has used to forever lock me into walking with Him. In my dream, Christ appeared and said, “Kyle, I can heal anyone you want.” And so, Christ and I were literally walking around, and we would encounter people who were sick, and I would ask Him, can You heal them? And He would say, yep! And then He would heal them on the spot. I think of that dream, and I think God is saying that all you have to do is walk with Me, and I will do the good works with and through you.