



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



God is Calling

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Bob Bradley

- Proverbs 1:20** Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:
- Proverbs 1:21** She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*,
- Proverbs 1:22** How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?
- Proverbs 1:23** Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.
- Proverbs 1:24** Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;
- Proverbs 1:25** But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:
- Proverbs 1:26** I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;
- Proverbs 1:27** When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.
- Proverbs 1:28** Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:
- Proverbs 1:29** For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:
- Proverbs 1:30** They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.
- Proverbs 1:31** Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.
- Proverbs 1:32** For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.
- Proverbs 1:33** But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

One little thought tonight and that is this. God is calling. I thought today, and I'm sure that probably a lot of you have thought thoughts similar to this, maybe not today. However, if you go to the malls, if you go to some of the theme parks, if you go to some of the places of vacations and where a lot of people are. Sometimes, you can just sit down and watch people. You watch people and you wonder, or at least I do, you wonder are they really saved. If they stick around long enough, sometimes you can figure out quickly that they are not. I thought as people are traveling through this life, and as they are going through life, there is a call going out. There is a call going out. God is calling.

When you look at the book of Proverbs, the book of Proverbs is about wisdom. It is about taking wisdom and learning what wisdom is and allowing wisdom to govern our

lives and allowing wisdom to teach us and to get us to the place in life that we can have wisdom and take wisdom and let it govern our lives. That is what the book of Proverbs is about.

The writer here, in chapter 1:20 and down through the rest of the chapter—I thought today, as I read this over and over; God is calling. God is speaking today. There is a voice in this world today. There is a voice that is reminding people of their sin. It doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter the lifestyle that we may have. There is something in this world that's called the presence of Almighty God, but do you know what He is doing today? He is reminding people how they are living and it is wrong. God is convicting people today.

If we are living in sin today, there is a voice out there that will tell us that we are living wrong. Before we ever do anything sometimes; do you know what we know? We have a conscious. Do you know what conscious will tell us? it matters not whether we are not even saved. There are things we know in life that is simply wrong. We know that murder is wrong. From very early on we knew that lying was wrong. We knew that stealing was wrong, and cheating was wrong, and all kinds of things. We learned that very early in life. Do you know why? Because God has instilled in mankind some things that we absolutely know is wrong. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, do you know what they knew? They knew they had done wrong. They knew they had broken the law of God, what God said for them not to do. We know that they knew it was wrong. Do you know what they tried to do? They tried to hide themselves from Almighty God.

Listen. There is a call that is going out today, a call that is a universal call, it is going everywhere. It is going to men and women from every race, every creed, every color. Do you know what that call is? It is the call going out reminding people that they are sinners.

Do you know what? I am glad that there is a God in heaven that loves mankind enough that He is calling today, before we commit sin, before we get so far into sin, before we live so long and get so heaped in sin that sin kills us; there is a call that is going out. God is calling. God is speaking today. God is reminding us that sin will destroy us. amen!

Before you ever get drunk, before you ever commit immorality; there is a voice calling. There is a voice speaking. There is a voice reminding us that it is wrong. That voice is the God of heaven. He is doing that because He loves us. The writer here, Solomon here; when he is writing here...

Proverbs 1:20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

We know that Jesus Christ, when we read the Bible; we know that Jesus Christ is the wisdom of Almighty God. Do you know what He is doing today? He is crying out. When you read on down through here, do you know what the Bible says here?

Proverbs 1:20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

Picture in your mind, just for a moment; people everywhere going up and down streets. If you have ever been in very many big cities, you have people going every way. You have people going this way and this way. Do you know what people will do? They will run over you. Do you know what there is? There is a voice calling. There is a voice speaking. There is a voice out there reminding people, hey, you are living in sin. What you are doing and what you are about to do; you are sinning against a Holy God.

I hope tonight if you are listening to me and you are in that position, I hope you will listen to that voice because sin will destroy your life. God is speaking. God is calling. Wisdom is crying. He is crying out in the streets.

The Bible goes on and says...

Proverbs 1:20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

Proverbs 1:21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*,

Listen. Not only is the God of heaven speaking in the streets, in the common places, to common people, but He is speaking in places where people are in high positions, where people are living and making decisions on how this world is to be governed. There is a voice. There is a presence. There is a call that is going out. The people that are there, when you go on down; He called all that was going in the gates of the city where business is taking place, in shops, in places of work. There is a call going out. God is calling. God is speaking. Do you know what will happen? There is a God that speaks.

I have dealt with many people over the years that has worked for me, who stole from the company that I was working for. Do you know what they will always tell you? Bob, I knew it was wrong before I did it, before I ever took this or did that. I knew it was wrong. I knew I shouldn't have done it. Do you know why? Because there is a call, there is a voice, there is someone that is reminding them that sin is wrong. Sin will destroy your life. Amen! Sin will get you.

Sin is something that we don't want to deal with. Sin is something that we think it doesn't matter. Many times, our sin that we commit, we convince ourselves that it is okay. There is a voice telling us that it is not okay. There is a voice that is telling us to go ahead and do it. There is a voice telling us that everybody does it. There is a voice telling us that what you have done, hundreds and thousands and millions have done. They have got by with it. However, there is a voice calling. There is a voice speaking. There is a voice that is going out in this world and reminding people that they need to turn from their sin.

The Bible tells us. He asked the question.

Proverbs 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Do you know what he is asking the question here? How long will you continue to be foolish? How long will you continue to be naive and thinking that sin is not going to destroy your life? That is really the question that...Jesus Christ is asking you today. How long do you think that you can live in sin and there is not going to be any repercussions? How long do you think that you can continue rebelling against the God of heaven? When He speaks and reminds you and tells you what you are doing is wrong, He will remind you. He reproves you. He touches your life. You hear His voice in your ear. How long are you going to continue living in your sin, in your foolishness, in your rebellion against Him?

Do you know why he is asking that question? Because there is coming a day, we are going to read about here in a moment, that there is not going to be any more calls. There is going to come a day that you are not going to hear the voice of God reminding you anymore of your sin. There is coming a day that you are going to cross the line. I don't know where that is going to be, or when that is but I do know one things. There is going to come a time that God is not going to call anymore. There is coming a time that the call of God that you hear today, that reminds you of your sin today; there is coming a time that is going to stop. It is not going to be anymore. He is asking the question; how long are you going to continue living in sin? How long?

Do you think that is a fair question? I think that is a fair question. Don't you? I think that is a fair question for everybody. I think that is a fair question. How long you simple ones?

Proverbs 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

That is a strong word. He uses the word here fools. When you look at the biblical definition of a fool, it is someone that says in their heart that there is no God. I don't think these people are atheists necessarily. Do you know what? In their actions, God speaks. God reminds them before they ever do some of the things that they do, before they ever enter in to some of the sin that they are committing. They hear the voice of God. God speaks unto them. God reminds them. God tells them that it is sinful. Yet they go ahead and do it. Do you know what they are doing? They are acting just as thought that there is no God. That there is no repercussion for their sin. Listen to me today. There are repercussions for their sin. In my life and in your life; you may be unsaved, you may be a Christian. I don't know where you stand tonight but I do know one thing. There is a God in heaven that is speaking. There is a God in heaven that is going and sending out a call tonight that is telling people that sin is going to destroy your life. If you don't quit it, there is a place called hell where you are going. God is reminding you of that tonight. God is speaking tonight.

Do you know what we do sometimes? Just like we do our husbands and wives. We just turn down the volume. It is not that God doesn't speak. It is not that God doesn't continue to call at that time. But we don't want to hear him. We don't want to listen Him.

Proverbs 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

God says, “Turn.” God says here, to repent, to change directions, to turn around from how that you are living. God says here, “I’m warning you. I’m convicting you. I’m speaking unto you. I’m telling you that you need to turn around and repent.

Proverbs 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Again, God is calling. God is reproofing. God is telling these folks, “Hey, it is time to turn around.” God is reproofing. God is correcting. God is saying, “Hey, what you are doing and how that you are living is wrong. You can’t go to heaven that way.” The call is going out everywhere. However, do you know what we are doing? We are turning a deaf ear unto God. We think that God is speaking to everybody except us. We think that God is going to accept us because of who we are, what we have done, how much we have given, and how many times we have attended church. We think that God is going to accept us because of that.

Listen. Their sin is not going to go to heaven. It does not matter how many times you have been to church. It doesn’t matter times you have been baptized. It doesn’t matter how many scriptures you can quote. It doesn’t matter how many Bible classes you have taught. If you are not saved, you are not going to heaven.

There is a voice speaking tonight. There is a voice calling tonight; reminding people that it is time to turn from our sin. It is time to repent. It is time to turn. It is time to hear God’s voice. It is time to listen to God’s voice. It’s time to obey God’s voice.

Tonight, is the night. People, some people—it may be you, it may be me—this may be the last trip. This may be the last church service. This may be the last time you get to come. We don’t know. Many times, over the years it has happened. Do you know what? It will happen more times. Sometime, if you continue to live; it will be your last time at church, sometime. Will that be tonight? Will it be tomorrow? How much do we continue to reject the voice and the call of God? He speaks. He calls. He reminds us of our sin. Before we ever indulge, before we ever jump into it so many times, God reminds us, “You’re wrong. What you are doing is wrong. You know it is wrong. You shouldn’t be doing that. You know it is wrong.” Sometimes we listen to that voice and we don’t do it. And whatever it is, sometimes we go ahead and do it and think we can get by with it. However, friend, you don’t get by with sin. I don’t get by with sin and you won’t either. Amen!

The Bible says...

Proverbs 1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

That is the God of heaven speaking tonight. He is speaking tonight unto a world, a world that is going to and fro, a world that is going crazy, a world that is going every

direction. He is speaking from the white house right on down. He is speaking to people all across the world. He is speaking to people that are in religious circles, and government circles. He is speaking to people in the medicine field and all kinds of different fields tonight. God is speaking and God is calling. He is calling because He loves you and He loves me. He loves everybody so much that He went to the cross and He died there that we could be saved.

The call is going out. People are hearing the call. But do you know what He is going to say here?

Proverbs 1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

You get what the Lord is saying here. He said, "I have stretched out my hands. I have called and you have refused."

Let me tell you something tonight. There is a penalty to pay because you and I reject the call of Almighty God.

I thought about one story here...when you read the book of Luke, chapter 12, you can go there and read about a young fellow here that he went out one day and looked over all his barns. He looked over the things that he had. He began to think within himself; I don't have anywhere to bestow all my fruits and my goods. This is what I am going to do. I am going to tear down my barns and I am going to build greater ones.

The call is going out. The call was going out to this man. He was worried where he was going to bestow all of his goods and all this stuff that God had blessed him to have. He wasn't worrying about meeting his maker. He wasn't worrying about leaving this life. He wasn't worrying about responding to the call. The only thing he was worrying about was building bigger barns and having more stuff. Do you know what he does? That is what he was going to do. However, do you know what the Lord said? "Thou fool. This night thy soul shall be required of thee. Then whose shall all this stuff be? So, it is with everyone that is rich towards themselves and not rich towards God."

There is a call going out tonight. We don't want to listen to it a lot of times because we are worrying about stuff. We want more stuff. We want to live in our sin and rebellion against God. God has stretched forth His hand. God is calling. If we won't regard His call there is going to be a heavy...price to pay.

One night just like it was for this fellow in Luke, and many others, one night, God is going to call and you are going to leave planet earth. He may have called you a million times. He may have reminded you a million times of your sin and what you are doing and how wrong it was. How black it was. How ugly it was. How degrading it was and how awful it was. You heard the call. You know He is speaking. You know that comes from God. You know what you are doing is wrong. You continue to do it. One time that is going to stop. One time, get this, one time you are going to be staring the gate of death in the face. Get that.

I hope I can make this very plain. I hope that I can make it so plain that you can see the picture. One day, God is going to call. When that time comes there is absolutely nothing you can do about it. Amen! Whenever that is, I don't know. I promise you this. There is a gate that goes to death and it is as real as I am standing here tonight. You may be looking and facing, and maybe going through that door, that gate tonight. You may be. If God calls tonight and He says tonight is it, you are going. You are going that way. Whatever you do—get this—if God says tonight is it; it doesn't matter how many people are praying for you. It doesn't matter how many people loves you. It doesn't matter how many sermons you have preached, songs you have sung, church services you went to, people you fed and clothed; if God calls tonight and says tonight is it, you are leaving. There is a thing called death. God says I have called.

Proverbs 1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

God is calling today, the masses. People are going to and fro calling. Get this.

Proverbs 1:25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

Do you know what that means? All the instruction, all the help, all the counsel, everything I tried to do for you, the calls have gone out that I have called and spoke and tried to get you to repent and quit sinning. You just threw it away. You didn't pay any attention to what I said. God says, you didn't pay any attention to what I have said. I have people in my family today that are like that. They are not paying any attention to the call of God. God is speaking. God is calling. God is reminding them. They used to come to church. They used to get up and sing, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Have you ever heard of a guy by the name of Vern Gosdin? Have you ever heard of him? I've got a brother that can sing just like him. He used to come and sing. God spoke. God reminded him. God said you need to change your ways. You need to straighten up. He wouldn't listen. It is sad. So much talent. So much good could be done. So many lives could be changed by so much talent that people has.

God speaks. God speaks to Christian people. A lot of times we don't pay any attention to Him. God speaks and says, "Hey, this is what I need you to do. I have a job for you. This is what I want you to do." We won't listen. We think we know more than God knows. We think we know the direction of our life more than God knows. We choose our own path, go our own way, and do our own thing, but it never works. Then we wake up one day and the doctor says you have a few days to live. We look back at our life and we have wasted it.

Listen. There isn't any do-overs here. We don't get to push a reset button and go back and do it all over again. We have one shot at this thing. That is all we have. God speaks to the unsaved people. God speaks to people and don't do that. That is absolutely, tee totally wrong. Don't do that. You know that is sin. You know that is

wrong. Yet because of pressure of the world, because of all the other voices that we are hearing and listening to; we go ahead and do it.

Proverbs 1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

Proverbs 1:25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

God says, "I've tried. I've tried and I've tried. I've tried to correct you. I've tried to tell you. I've tried to warn you. I have gone to the furthest extent. I have done everything that I can to get you to change directions, to get you to repent, to get you to receive the instruction that I am giving you." God says, I've went to the furthest of my extent. God says, I can't do anything else. I've done all that I can do, but you wouldn't pay any attention. You loved your sin. You loved rebellion. You loved what you were doing and you continued to do it.

Proverbs 1:26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; That is God speaking. That is wisdom speaking. That is the God of heaven speaking. God says, I spoke to you. I called you. I did everything. I stretched out my hands. I reproofed you. I corrected you. I convicted you. I did all I could do for you, to get you to repent and turn around and you wouldn't do it. He says, I have a message for you.

Proverbs 1:26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; That is a hard statement. Isn't it? I don't think God is laughing because people are suffering. No. Do you know what? I think God is rejoicing because...good will always triumph over evil. God is rejoicing because of that. God rejoices when good triumphs. God says, I will laugh at your calamity. When it all comes apart...I don't think He is laughing because you're going to be suffering, but I do think He is rejoicing because good is winning. Righteousness always wins folks. Righteousness always triumphs in the end.

Proverbs 1:26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; Get this.

Proverbs 1:27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

When life all falls apart, when everything comes unglued, when everything that you thought you had all...just like the guy that I talked to you about in Luke 12. He thought he had it all. He wasn't thinking about dying. He wasn't thinking about God calling and reminding him. No doubt, we know God spoke. We know that God called, but he wasn't thinking about that. He was thinking about stuff. He was thinking about tomorrow, and what he was going to do tomorrow. He wasn't thinking that there wasn't going to be a tomorrow for him.

Solomon writing here.

Proverbs 1:27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

Like a tornado. When destruction and desolation come, it is like a tornado. When things come and everything gets blown every direction. He says here when distress and anguish come upon you—get this...

Proverbs 1:28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

Do you think that verse is really in the Bible? It is there. Isn't it? You see, that is what is so important about what I am talking about tonight. The call is going out. The call is going out to everybody. The call is going out to Christians and the call is going out to unsaved people. God is calling. God is speaking. God is asking. He is reminding sinners that you need to repent because there is a storm coming. There is a storm coming and you need to repent. You need to turn around. God says, you wouldn't listen to me. You wouldn't listen to none of my reproves, none of my correction. I spoke. I called. I did everything that I could. God says, I went to my furthest extent to get you to repent. Now you have stepped across the line. Destruction, desolation, anguish, and fear; when it all comes—and He says it is coming—it is not "if" but when it comes. It is not "if" it is going to come but "when" it is going to come. He says, then you are going to call and I'm not going to answer.

You see, God is calling today. God is speaking today. We have an opportunity today to listen and to respond to the call and come to God today. Amen! You can call upon Him today, and He is listening today. Amen! But there is coming a day when you are going to call and He is not going to answer.

When that is, I don't know. There is no doubt there are going to be in the lake of fire, screaming, and begging, and praying, and asking God to forgive them, and cleanse them and save them. Telling God that they are sorry. Saying, Lord I can remember when you spoke to me, when you called me and when you reminded me of my sin. You told me how wicked and how damnable and sinful it was; I remember you doing that Lord. I want to change now. That is going to be too late then. It is going to be too late.

People that have gone to church, people that have had good parents or maybe they weren't good parents, people who have worked hard, and people that were good neighbors—we call good neighbors but they lived in sin—God called, God spoke, and God reprov'd and God reminded them that they needed to get saved. They wouldn't listen. Death caught them. Now they are crying out for help. They are calling. They are calling upon me but I will not answer. They will seek me early, but they shall not find me.

I don't think you are going to be in the lake of fire a week or two, a month or two before you start calling out for help. I think as soon as you get there, I think you are going to be calling out—that is what that is talking about to me. When it says you will call early.

I don't think you are going to wait a long time before you start screaming and asking God for help. However, there is no help that is going to come.

He is calling today. He is speaking to people today. He is asking people to come today and to listen to His reproves, to listen to His instruction, to come and follow Him. Let Him be the Lord of your life. Repent of your wickedness and sinfulness and evil ways. God is asking you to do that today. If you don't that is your call.

Proverbs 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

They didn't want to know about me. They hated me. They didn't want to listen to my reprove. They hated knowledge. They did not choose to fear the Lord.

Proverbs 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Proverbs 1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Do you know what the Bible is saying here? They hated me. They hated everything I stood for. Every time I called they didn't like it. Every time I reminded them, they despised it. But now they are calling and I'm not answering.

I hope you understand that there is a time, a day, there is going to be an event in your life that is going to take you from this life. When that time comes, all the praying that you may want to do on the other side of the grave; it isn't going to do you any good. Whether you are saved, or unsaved; the praying is not going to change anything. Amen!

These folks, they didn't listen. They hated His reproof. He stretched out His hand. He did everything He could. He called. He called. One day death came. Then they started calling to Him and calling on the God of heaven but He is not answering. You hated me. You despised my reproves. You despised my wisdom, my knowledge, and everything I tried to teach you and show you; you hated it. I'm not listening now. You went one day too long.

Proverbs 1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Proverbs 1:31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

Do you think God really means that? God really means that. There is something that is forever settled in heaven. A lot of things actually. God's Word is one of them. One part of God's Word that is chiseled out and forever settled in heaven is that we reap what we sow. If sow unto this flesh, we shall of this flesh reap corruption. That is forever settled in heaven. It can't be changed. If you sow sin, wickedness and deceit, deception, immorality, and all the sins of this flesh; if that is what you sow then you are going to reap the rewards of that sin. Amen!

There will be a time, I promise you—if you don't remember anything else that I ever told you, remember this—there will be a time, if you die and leave this world, in your sin;

there will be a time that you'll remember, Bradley warned me. He told me. He reminded me of this day. He reminded me that there was going to come a time that when I was going to be calling on God, and God wasn't going to answer. That would be one of the worst things about hell, about the lake of fire is that people could remember—you will have your memory there, read the book. You are going to have your memory in the lake of fire. You are going to remember all the times that God called, God knocked, God spoke, God reminded you of your sin and how He wanted you to repent. That is going to be one of the worst things, I think about hell, is you are going to think about all the times that you could have repented, and you could have changed where you were at then, but you can't do that now. Amen!

Proverbs 1:32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

Proverbs 1:33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Do you know what that is telling us? We are going to reap what we sow. If we sow this flesh, we are going to reap corruption. God speaks. God calls. We reject. There is no hope for us. If you reject the call of God, there is no hope for you. Your baptismal certificate is not going to get you into heaven. Amen! It is not going to do that. What is going to get you into heaven is listening to the voice of God when He speaks, when He calls and you respond positively to that call. You come and repent of your sins, wherever you are at and ask God to forgive you and cleanse you. Do you know what He will do? He will do that tonight. He will save you. He will give you hope.

Do you know what you won't have to worry about? You won't have to worry about dying then. You won't have to worry about this thing called death. You won't have to worry about this place where you go that is cold, dark, dreary, and the gate is there and it opens up, and it goes down to a chamber that I don't know what is there because I have never been there. Amen! I'm talking about you that is unsaved. The place called death and hell is going to be a horrible place. It is a going to be a horrible place. You don't want to go there. You don't want to go there. You don't have to go there.

All you have to do is listen to the call of the God of heaven, when He speaks, and He is speaking tonight. He is asking you to come and simply follow Him. As He did the disciples. As He did to many people are sitting here tonight. As He did to many people listening to me tonight across this world. He simply spoke and people come. People are following Him tonight. You can do the same thing.

Wherever you are at tonight...God knows where you are at. God speaks in every area of life. He speaks in the streets. He speaks in the gates. He speaks everywhere. God speaks and God calls. He calls people from every walk of life. God calls. He is calling tonight. He is speaking tonight. He is asking you to come and follow Him tonight. If you are not saved, if you never accepted Him as your Savior, if you have never received Him—come this evening. Come and pray—