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### WELCOME – Bobby & Hannah Schuller

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: And welcome visitors and church family. It is always, always a joy to be with you. Did you know that the only weapon the enemy has against a Christian is to get you not to believe God's word. God cannot lie. If you are fighting this, confess His word out loud every day. You are loved.

BS: That's right. The enemy wants to undermine God's work in your life by deceiving you, and so we're here to realign our minds with the truth of God's scripture and with His Holy Spirit and to encourage one another. Life is hard, you don't have to do it alone. And we know that God is at work doing something great in your life. Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much that you have called us and gathered us in this way, whether we're here in the house or attending virtually on TV or on our phones, we thank you, God that you love us and you've called us to be together. We pray most of all that Jesus Christ would be elevated in this meeting. That we would be here to say thank you, Lord for life and for all that you've given us. And Lord, we thank you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen.

HAVEN: Turn to the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

### SCRIPTURE – 1. Thessalonians 5,5-11 - Hannah Schuller

You may be seated. In preparation for the message, 1st Thessalonians 5:5-11: You are all the children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then let us not be like others who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate in the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Amen.

### GEBET – Chad Blake

Father, we come before you with our hearts overwhelmed by your love. Lord, we want to be the kind of people that reflect your love in everything we do. Lord, give us mindsets of missionary people. Give us mindsets of where your love needs to be. That wherever we go, we bring with us you. Lord, sometimes we spend so much of our time looking for the big and the miraculous when it's very often in the everyday moments; the kind conversation with neighbors and with friends. Lord, give us your eyes to see the world. Lord, we pray for your church in all of its many forms around the world. We pray that we are united for your sake, that we put forth a good reflection of who you are to the world, that the world needs you, Lord. That we reflect your goodness back to the world. We pray for all of our missionaries serving all around the country, serving all around the world who are doing the hard work that you have called them to. Lord, we pray for those right now, maybe those who are feeling tired, feeling like they have nothing left to give. Lord, give them supernatural energy.

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Let them know that there are people at this very moment praying for them, cheering them on, saying you can do it. We believe in you. And we pray for Pastor Bobby, the message that you have placed on his heart. May we have ears to hear it anew. May we have hearts that are transformed and may we leave this place never the same because we encountered you in a new way today. Lord we love you, in Jesus' name, amen.

### DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Would you stand with us? Hold your hands like this as a way of receiving from the Lord. We're going to say this together. I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. Its who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with the world. Thanks, you can be seated.

### MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "Who ist the King of Kings?"

Before you comment on my shoes, we had family pictures on Thursday so I had to bring my fancy shoes home and I left them there. I always keep my suit in my office, so this will happen again, I promise, in like three months. We're just going to let it go. All right? Yes, I'm wearing tennis shoes with a gorgeous suit. But we'll just have to.. just don't worry about it. Hey if you're watching at home or you're here in the church, by the way, I'm really active on Instagram and if you need prayer for anything, send me a direct message and I'll be happy to pray for you. It's really me, I really would like to pray for you. Okay. The kingdom of God is like a young man who bought a house and needed to put a lawn in. Hannah and I were quite young when we got our first house and quite young when we sold it, actually. It was too small. Our family was growing. It was 1,100 square feet. It's not enough room for children. I remember, my dad taught me that when you buy a house, you want to buy the ugliest house on a beautiful street. And you want to make that ugly house beautiful. So I remember looking for that, and we found a gorgeous house, it was the first house we could afford. It was at the bottom of the market in 2009, I believe. So we sort of slid in in that way. And I noticed that if I just did one thing, the house would be immensely more beautiful, and that was just put a lawn in. The person who had lived there before we bought the house was a tenant. She'd tried to get the lawn going, but she just really wasn't able to do it and she did it in the worst way. She had one of those little.. I don't know what they're called, but those little spinny things that you put on the end of your hose and you put one here for a bit, and then you got to remember and set your baking timer or something and go back out there and move it again and move it again and do that every day. Well it wasn't very effective and the lawn looked terrible. And so I had to do some things when we bought the house. The first thing I had to do was I had to pull the weeds. Get all those weeds up. Here in California, we've got some gnarly weeds. We have like tree weeds. They go deep, sometimes you need that little spinny hook thing to get it out. I'm not going to use right terms. You know what I mean. Spinny hook thing to get it out. I had to use poison, too, to kind of kill the rest of it and make sure everything else was gone. And then most importantly, I had to recruit my best friend, one of my best friends, Jim Case to help me put in sprinklers so that the soil would be nourished every day; that I wouldn't even have to think about it. The timer would go off and every day that soil would get water and it would get nourished, right? And so he helped me, meaning he did most of the work and I encouraged him. And then I laid the sod and wouldn't you know it, that lawn just grew so well. We are very lucky living in California. Lawns grow really well here. So that lawn grew like crazy, and it looked beautiful, and I realized something – as long as the lawn was beautiful, I didn't have to worry about weeds. Isn't that amazing? As long as the lawn was alive, weeds weren't a problem. And I'm surprised how many of us in the faith, we don't think about growing a beautiful lawn. All we think about is pulling weeds. You'd be convinced listening to some sermons, watching some believers that the goal is just to have a patch of brown dirt without any weeds in it.

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And it's nice if there's a patch of green from time to time. That is not the vision that Jesus gives the disciples for the kingdom of God. The vision of the kingdom of God is eternal life within, full, overflowing, joy, compassionate empathy, vision, growth, life, strength, endurance through hard times. Eternal living. That was the vision that Jesus gave. And the vision I want you to get today is that in life, if we are fully alive in the Holy Spirit of God, that the sin management thing that feels so toilsome and often so central to the faith, that that is not at all what the gospel is about. Yes you have to pull weeds sometimes, but only for a purpose. You pull weeds so that the lawn can be lush and green. See very often we think that there is a.. Dallas Willard talked about this, a cost of discipleship. We hear about that a lot – the cost of discipleship and how hard the life of a disciple is, but trust me, there is a cost to non-discipleship. There is a huge cost. We always think that living God's way is this sacrificial hard thing to do, and in some ways it is, but it's hard in the way that practicing piano is hard. It's hard in the way that practicing for your sports team, or the way that a ballerina stretches. Those things are hard, but dancing and playing and catching the ball at the right moment, that is awesome! It is a price you pay for a reward; you see. And it is that reward, that life, eternal living that we have right now that can make a Christian who is really growing in their faith just not even struggle anymore with those other things, because the Holy Spirit is just working in her life or in his life. Isn't that good news? So with lawn care, you got a fresh lawn, you don't have to worry about weeds anymore. You know what you got to worry about? There's only one thing I noticed after all the time you got to worry about – I don't know what you call it in Florida, but here in California we call it Florida crab grass. It's actually called St. Augustine, and people hate this grass so much that we made the term longer. We went from St. Augustine to calling it Florida crab grass because we hate it so much. What happens is when your neighbor's lawn gets overwhelmed with this grass, and it's not really grass, I don't know what it is. It's like more like a bush that looks like grass. It doesn't grow up, it grows sideways. So what happens is when the Florida crab grass grows, it grows sideways, so it grows over the good stuff and it blocks the sun. It looks like real grass, but it's not. It's killing the real grass. See that's the problem with our faith. It's not usually the sin that kills our faith, it's the fake grass. Its fake religion, and fake religious people and fake preachers. It is fake churches; it is what the pharisees had. On the outward, on the outside, rule followers. Doing good, right? But on the inside, dead as a doornail. On the outside, their religious report card is at least an A-minus or higher. On the inside, dead, dead. See Jesus was not offering His people a new set of rules that would put them into some higher religious category, He was offering them eternal life, the kind of life that is so amazing, you're not even interested in the other stuff anymore. Isn't that good news? That is good news. Wow! So it's the fake grass that kills the real grass, and it is fake religion and fake religious people that can kill the spirit in your life. Don't let them do that. So many people, as a pastor, I'm dealing with so many souls who come into this church with a history of abuse, woundedness, discouragement, being turned down because of some thing, some person that humiliated them publicly in a church or in a religious school or place like that. All of that stuff is the enemy, all of that stuff is what the Jews called breaking the greatest commandment. You know the Jews believe that the greatest commandment in the Ten Commandments, the worst one you could break was taking the Lord's name in vain. Taking the Lord's name in vain means doing evil in God's name. Because they say when you murder someone, you kill a person. But when you take the Lord's name in vain, you kill God. So I'm sorry if that's happened to you. I want you to know that that is not what God has for you: a list of rules. Yes, we want to be moral people, but we're moral because it's the best kind of life to live, and when the spirit takes ahold of your life, well you just get full of life, and that's what I want for you, and that's even what I'm going to pray for you right now.

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I just pray that the Holy Spirit even now, that even if you sort of opened your heart and body to it, that you would even feel the goodness, life and love of the Holy Spirit, touch your heart in a way that allows you to love your neighbor and to forgive people who have hurt you, and to walk in the easy rhythms of grace. I pray that for you. That's the gospel, and this is why Jesus was so at odds with the pharisees. Man, they did everything right on the outside, didn't they? The pharisees, man, they did it all right. But inside they were dead, and all they had to offer was death. That's not the gospel. Okay. Did you know there are two gospels? There are two gospels. The one we preach is a younger gospel. There's an older gospel than that, did you know that? And it's still around today. It's the gospel of Caesar. I'll take you there in a moment. There's a city in Greece, Thessalonica. It's a big, beautiful, thriving port city. Highly recommend you visit. The food is delicious. This is the Agoura inside Thessalonica, and it was a beautiful Roman city. Back in those days, you might remember a guy named Julius Caesar, who was killed by the senators in the Roman republic. And when that happened, a brief civil war broke out, and two of the great conspirators, Cassius and Brutus were in this part of the world. The adoptive son of Julius Caesar, Octavian and Marc Antony went to vindicate or avenge? Avenge the death of Julius Caesar, and they went to this part of the world to find those two guys. And so there's this battle that ensued that was a decisive battle, the battle of Pydna, which is near Philippi. And in that region, both armies were looking for support by the local cities and villages. And when they reached out to Thessalonica, Thessalonica supported Octavian and Marc Anthony, and Octavian later becomes Caesar Augustus. And because of that, when they won the battle and eventually won the war, Augustus was so grateful that he just lavished this city with all sorts of things: aqueducts and roads and all of the accoutrement that makes a great Roman city a great Roman city. He put in a theater and festivals and temples and all sorts of things. And during this time, as well, the worship of Caesar continues to grow. There's actually Caesar cult, and worship of the divine Caesar. You can see all sorts of statues like this one, of Caesar in a divine pose. So most of the time, this statue he's not wearing armor, but in this one it's a battle statue but typically that same thing, that's the divine pose. Like the same way Jupiter or someone like that posing, pointing to the future or to some vision, or holding the scepter in the left hand. If you can see his feet, he's in a walking stance like this. And so there's this cult of the divine Caesar that exists in the first century in the Bible, and the word they use often when something great happens within this cult and to Caesar is this word "gospel." And though there are other examples, most of the time, the most common use of the word "gospel" which it predates the gospel word that we use in the Bible, it's when a Caesar was born, when a Caesar is crowned king, or when a Caesar is victorious in some decisive battle. And so gospel literally meant news. Somebody would come and bring news, the first son of so and so is born, and that was gospel. Or, Claudius defeated the whoever in some key battle and that was gospel. It was real news. It was a headline. And it always had to do with the king, with Caesar. When Paul enters into the picture, Paul uses and the disciples use this word on purpose with the idea that the gospel we preach is of another king and of another kingdom. It's of another birth. It's of another victory, it is of another crown, a crown that is greater than the one you speak of. In Paul's day, there was a lot of trust in the Roman empire by the Roman people, especially by this Caesar cult. And the gospel of the Caesar cult, in essence, was powerful government will keep you safe. Powerful government will keep you safe. We will keep the barbarians out. We will keep the water flowing. We will keep the grain coming. And I feel, if I just might for a minute, I did this in the first service, I feel like I did it tactfully. I'm going to do it again, guys, here we go. I have noticed even in my own life that when believers begin to lose some of the life of the spirit that they were born into in their baptism, and they are looking for something bigger than themselves to adore, they adore government. That there is an overthinking, overemphasis, over meditating on what's happening in government than there is on what's happening in my life and in the spirit. Can I tell you something?

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Whatever side of the thing you're on, okay, I'm going to make you several promises, all right? Whatever politician you believe in, I promise has lied to you at least once and I promise they will lie to you again. I promise that they have exaggerated things. I promise all of the things they say they're going to do when they're running for your vote, if they're really good, they'll get about 40% of those done. Most of them will get none of those done, and some of them will do the inverse of what they say. Most politicians only care about themselves, and their image. So in life, I find that when we begin to lose a picture and a trust of God in our life, we begin to idolize some key person in government that's going to save you. I love my country. I love good government. But I will just tell you something – no person, no person can save you, except one. No man can give you what you're looking for, except one. Look always vote according to your conscience and your wisdom and your convictions and your experience. But don't trust the person you vote for. Trust God. Do your best in life but don't trust your best, trust God. Work hard with all your life. Give everything a hundred and ten percent, but don't trust your effort, trust God. Those things, all of those things whether its government or my effort or my big vision for my life, there will be so many failures and disappointments and government will let us down and churches will let you down and people let you down, your friends will let you down. Some friends will betray you. You're going to run into all sorts of problems in life, but I promise you that God will not let you down. Trust in Him. We should never think a bad thought about God. We have been lied to and we believed those lies. God is only good all the time. And as we trust in Him; it's like our whole body is like a clenched fist. The more we worry about life, but when we trust in God it just opens up. And this is what Jesus was offering, and this is what Paul was preaching when he was preaching Christ crucified to the Gentiles. That's what the passage from today is about. And Paul says in Acts chapter 17, "But when they did not find them," so they were looking for Paul and Silas because they were preaching. "When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the other believers before the city officials shouting 'these men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here'" to Thessalonica, "and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They're all defying Caesar's decrees saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." When Paul preached the gospel, he was openly using a term to upend Caesar. When he talked about the birth of a king, they are like oh Caesar, a new Caesar's born? Claudius' son? No. When he talked about a victorious king, he was talking not about a man who won a battle, but a man who died a gruesome death for the saving of the world. And when he talked about the crowning of a new king in this gospel, it was not some warlord, it was someone who had been victorious over death and hell. And this is the kingdom. You see, this is the kingdom. If I were to just say that the Bible was really about one term and one term alone, it would be about the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God. Which simply means that where God's goodwill is put in play, that's the kingdom of God. Anywhere what God wants done, which is only good, is being done, that's the kingdom of God, even if people don't know it. The kingdom of God is the presence.. in seminary you would say it's the range of God's effective will, which is a very academic way of effectively saying what God wants done is done where He wants it done. When you experience a miracle in your life to a prayer, that is the kingdom of God. When a man forgives and loves his enemies, the kingdom of God is there. The kingdom of God is the fullness of the life of the Holy Spirit that is made to anybody, anybody no matter how sinful, messed up, broken, anyone who as they are comes before God and says yes, even me, Lord, that is when the kingdom of God is fulfilled in a person's life. I've got just a little over four minutes. I know I've said this before, but the number one question men have, according to statistics when they come to church is when's it over? And I think I said that last week. You're going to get out of here at noon, I promise you. Kingdom of God is four things, okay? The first one's the most important. There are more than this, but the first thing is that the kingdoms of this world is like its over there, it's over here, where is America, where is China, where is the kingdom of India? Its over there. And Jesus even says that.

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People say of the kingdom of God, the kingdom of God's over here, or the kingdom of God is over there. But Jesus says the kingdom of God is within you, in Luke 17. The kingdom of God is within you. The kingdom is hidden. It's a total submission and fullness of heart to God's spirit that sustains us, and breathes life into us; that when we wake and when we go to bed that there is this thing, this undying light within the body that keeps us completely alive and in the spirit of God and allows us to effortlessly love those who are near us with the kind of love that they need. So the kingdom of God is a total change of the heart. It's not someone who decides I'm going to follow the rules now. It's like a lawn that's lush and full of grass. Or even better, it's like a garden that is full of fruit and vegetables. The world is all about what is on the outside, but the kingdom of God is what's happening in the hidden places in the heart and body of a person. See the pharisees said it's all about not committing adultery. But inside those pharisees were overflowing with lust and insatiability. They said it's all about not murdering, but inside they're overflowing with hatred and bitterness towards their neighbor. They said it's all about getting as close to the truth as possible. But inside they were looking for ways to cheat the system so they could deceive others in trades. Jesus says no. Become a whole new person who does these things naturally out of what the spirit of God is doing in your life. That's the kingdom of God. It reminds of like when I played hockey back in the day. And during this time, I was kind of a poor kid. We didn't have a lot. We struggled sometimes so I didn't have all the gear. I remember once I had two roller blades that mis-matched and I got them for a deal at a sports place, but they worked. And I remember when rich kids would come, because we were in LA at the time so there were a lot of rich kids, and they would come with all of this gear, all of the sweet slick stuff, everything looked awesome. And early on, when I started playing sports, I always thought that well those are going to be the best ones, right? But at the end of the day, it was actually how worn down the gear was that would tell you how good a hockey player was. You want to know how good someone is at hockey, look at the tape. You look at the tape on their stick. If it's been taped and re-taped and worn down and worn down and worn down, that's someone who practices. That's the guy you want on your team, not the one on the outside. See that's how the kingdom of God is. All we see is what's on the outside, but what God sees is what's on the inside, and that's the only part that you're going to take with you when you die. All of us are not going to live very long. That's what matters is what's on the inside. That's the kingdom of God. Number two: the kingdom of God is unhurried. It's just not in a hurry. Satan is in a hurry and everything he offers you is very quick. Right now. Eat now, pay later. Right now. Take it. But everything the Lord is doing in your life is with an eternal perspective. Everything. If you got magic superpowers, if you're in a Marvel movie or something, and today you knew you were never going to die, you were never going to age, you had thousands and thousands of years of life ahead of you, millions of years of life ahead of you, you wouldn't hurry. Not as much, unless you were in a hurry to help someone, and that's how Jesus is. The life of the spirit is an unhurried one that thinks more in terms of habits and a change of a person than it does big events. The third thing is the kingdom loves the least of these. Not in our world. We only love the least of these when people see us loving the least of these. But when nobody's around and nobody's looking, in our hearts, many people of the world, they don't really care about the least of these. So there are people who are always on the outside and it's not always the people you think. Whoever you like the least, whoever is the person you least want to be around is the least of these. Think about if you had a very cool product, like some new shoes, who's the last person you would want to model that shoe? Who's the last person you'd want to be your spokesperson for your company. That's the least of these. You see in the kingdom of God, God is just reaching out to the least of these, just loves the people that have been rejected. When we get to the throne of God and we give an account for our lives, the good news is we don't have to talk about our sins because they've been forgiven. But we do have to talk about what we did with our life.

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In the parable of the talents, we learn that, that we'll have to say Lord with the time you gave me, this is what I did. I believe that's going to be a good experience for you. You're like well I'm pretty old and I haven't done much. Well you got time, fix it! All right. And number four: the kingdom of God advances through submission, sacrifice and kindness. See the kingdom of the world, we advance through advertising, we advance through manipulation or through force or war or deception or whatever it is, strong arming: you better come to work on time. That's how the kingdom advances in the world. In the kingdom of God, the kingdom advances through submission, which is another way of saying you just trust God with your life. It advances through sacrifice and through kindness. So in the kingdom, it's like if you need something, give it away. What do you need? What do you need today? Give it away. Give that thing away. You need encouragement? Encourage somebody. You'll feel encouraged. You need time? Give some of your time away to people who need help. You need money? Give your money away. Seriously. When we do these things, we are showing God with earnest, with good faith, we're showing Him with our actions that we literally believe Him. It's not just something we say on Sunday morning. And that's how the kingdom of God is. That's how the kingdom of God is. So I want to encourage you. The life that God has available to you is so much simpler than religious people make available. In fact I just encourage you, even now to quiet your heart and open up to the spirit of God, and just recognize that God is just overflowing with love for you. Despite what you've done, or what you want, or what you're planning, God has just forgiven you and He's loving you. Just respond. Build your whole life in response to His grace and love for you. Just believe completely that all of the things that the world values, for the most part, God probably doesn't value any of those things, or at least not to the degree that you think. He just loves you just as you are, not as you should be. And as you build your life in response to that, and you're full of the Holy Spirit, everything else just kind of starts to take care of itself. It's coming for you. I believe it. Lord, we thank you and we love you that you loved us first. I pray in Jesus' name that you would break every chain and every yoke in everyone's life. Thank you, God, that our problems are important to you, so we trust them to you and we pray it all in the strong name of Jesus, amen.

### BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

Again, thank you so much. Love you. Thank you for being here. And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you His peace in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen.