



Dear ALIVE - Dear Church—Faithful Community
Sermon Discussion Questions – August 20, 2023

Scripture Passages:

Ephesians 5:25–27 (NLT) ²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

Revelation 2:8–11 (NLT) ⁸ “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Smyrna. This is the message from the one who is the First and the Last, who was dead but is now alive:

Revelation 1:17–18 (NLT) ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.

Psalms 121:8 (NLT) ⁸ The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

Psalms 139:5 (NIV84) ⁵ You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

Revelation 2:9 (NIV48) ⁹ “I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich! I know the blasphemy of those opposing you. They say they are Jews, but they are not, because their synagogue belongs to Satan.

Revelation 2:10 (NIV84) ¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Matthew 10:28 (NIV84) ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

2 Timothy 4:6 (NIV84) ⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.

Philippians 1:21 (NIV84) ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Psalms 139:16 (NLT) ¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

2 Timothy 4:7–8 (NLT) ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearance.

Warm Up:

School is back in session and our college students are returning! What are you looking forward to this year? Are there any goals you have? Fun bucket list items you want to mark off?

Discussion:

1. At the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom emphasizes the importance of repeated words in Scripture. Has there been a certain repeated theme that has stuck out to you in this series, your own personal time with God, or circumstances of your life recently?
2. Pastor Tom shares about how Jesus introduces himself at the Alpha and Omega, signifying that His kingdom never fades, even in the midst of our own trials and temptations. Is there any area of your life right now that you need to be reminded that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega?
3. Poverty and Slander were two ways that the church was experiencing trials from the culture around them. What are some trials that the church faces today from the world around us? How does that affect how the world sees the Church?
4. Philippians 1:21 says “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” As you read these words, are they words that you believe Christians take hold of day to day? What does it look like for someone to live that out?
5. In his message, Pastor Tom states, “Therefore, we seize the day not because there is no tomorrow but because there *is* a tomorrow. And we seize the day in light of all of our tomorrows.”

In light of the hope of tomorrow, what is important for you to seize today? A relationship? A conversation? A surrender?

6. Read 2 Timothy 4:7-8. What does it mean for you to fight the good fight, finish the race, and remain faithful?

Next Steps:

Take some time to think through these words from Pastor Tom.

“All of our days and all of our deeds are good for something. They’re good for someone. No matter where it is we go, no matter what it is we do, we do it all to the glory of God. Let’s beware of living compartmentalized lives. Faith in one box and everything else separate. When you follow a supreme being, there is nothing in life he does not touch.”

Now, pray through all of the deeds you may do in a day and ask God how he might want to use those places and spaces to shed light on His Kingdom.