

What Does My Life Say About God?

Scripture used: [II Corinthians 3:3 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon preached a reflective sermon this week. We are transitioning between two sermon series - [Reset!](#) and [Humble!](#) - so we have the opportunity to get some perspective. As followers of Jesus, our lives must proclaim God's greatness and everlasting love. That is how Paul defended himself against troublemakers in the early church who were seeking "reference letters" for his ministry. When asked about his authority to teach the gospel of Jesus, Paul indicated that the lives of the people he had impacted were his "letter." As a church community, NBCC is having that kind of impact. We "wrote" a letter through our service and generosity to Garfield Elementary school the last two years of our Be Rich Outreach, and this "letter" was received as they have invited us to have deeper relationship with them. Last week, Pastor Hurmon was invited to speak to hundreds of school children at Garfield. The children heard his remarkable story of being scarred as a young child, being abandoned by his father, acting out in school, and then how he surrendered his life to God at 15 years old. Like Paul, Pastor Hurmon's story points to awesome power of God, the creator of the universe who desires a personal relationship with every one of us. Each of our lives writes a testimony. What does your life say about God?

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Each person's story is like a letter written to others.** We are supposed to live by faith, as Paul writes in [Romans 1:17 \(NIV\)](#). But we often struggle with what that means. Pastor Hurmon encouraged us all to think about other people as a starting point. Everyone's purpose is unique, but we can say for sure that no one's purpose is to focus purely on their own selfish desires.
- 2) **Pastor Hurmon's story confirms three powerful truths about God.** And we should be amazed that he was invited to Garfield in the first place, by a Muslim Vice Principal, to a secular public school, in the middle of Silicon Valley! This is God at work through the faithfulness of our church!
 - a. **God is faithful.** That means He can be trusted. God knew us and had a purpose for us before we were born, as it says in [Jeremiah 1:4-5 \(NLT\)](#). We matter because of who we are in relation to Him. We don't need good looks, a great education, lots of money, fame, or anything else.
 - b. **God loves.** And love can be difficult sometimes. Many people had at least one really tough teacher growing up. Looking back, it's easy to be grateful for those high standards. But we didn't enjoy that kind of tough love at the time! God's love is also more than just tough. It's unconditional, as we see in [Romans 5:6-8 \(NLT\)](#). His love covers the sinners as well as the upright. We should welcome people who express tough love to us, and speak hard truths into our lives. We should also be willing to show tough, resilient love to others, even when they are hard to love.
 - c. **God redeems.** That means He makes all things new. This is a consistent message across the Old and New Testaments. [Isaiah 43:18-19 \(NLT\)](#) describes the newness of His creation, while [Romans 8:28-29 \(NLT\)](#) promises us that every situation can be turned to the good. The promise that God redeems and can make all things new - [Revelation 21:1-5 \(NLT\)](#) - should give us hope and encouragement. We aren't trapped by character flaws, disappointments, or sins in our lives. God can make us new, and do a new thing in our lives!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Paul told the Corinthians that his credibility was based on their actions as Jesus followers. He established the church, so its good deeds proved that Paul was an authority on Jesus' teachings. The actions of the church were "the letter" making him credible. Do you think NBCC is also a good model of a Christian church? How do you feel like you contribute to the "letter" that NBCC is writing?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Pastor Hurmon did not deliver a sermon to the kids of Garfield Elementary School. Instead he preached by sharing his personal story, and what it meant for his beliefs about living a good life by surrendering to God. Consider the 3 powerful truths about God that Pastor Hurmon shared - is God speaking to you in particular about one of them? What is He saying? When you think about your life, what are the powerful truths that God has expressed in your life and through your life? Who do you have the opportunity to share your story with?
- 3) **DO** - Consider the challenge in [James 1:22 \(NLT\)](#) and turn to God in prayer to see how He wants you to bless the world. Say "I am available to you, God!"