

MARK'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

- **Sing – 5:00-5:20**
- **Announcements 5:20-5:35**

As we remain standing let's pray.

Father, we just sang about kneeling before your throne. And we do that now in prayer. We echo the words of Moses: *Lord, knowing that a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past.* And yet Lord, we're here to celebrate what you've done over 25 years in the D.C. area. Help us to do that happily and humbly. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

You may be seated. And kids of CHBC participating in their classes can be dismissed now.

Good evening, and welcome to this gathering of the Capitol Hill Baptist Church. My name is Isaac Adams, I have the joy of serving as one of the pastors here. And tonight, we have the joy of honoring another pastor here, our senior pastor: Mark Dever, who—along with his wife Connie & their family and—this week 25 years ago began his ministry here. The Bible says in Ephesians 4 that God gives pastors to their churches as gifts. And yet, beloved, if we make tonight only about Mark, we've missed the point. Because the greatest gift is not the pastor of a local church; the greatest gift is the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. And Christian it's our faith in him that unites us together, that makes us brothers and sisters.

So if you're visiting CHBC tonight for the first time, it's great to have you. You've stumbled into a family reunion. Given that we're going to be hearing testimonies from brothers and sisters—uncles and aunts in the faith and friends of our church—the format of tonight's service is going to be a bit different than our normal format, but the gospel we trust in and sing about will be the exact same.

And if you're here and you're not a Christian let me give you that gospel, this good news, in four words: God, Man, Christ, Response. God, Man, Christ, Response. So what Pastor Mark has preached for the last 25 years is that God is the creator, the holy one who is good and has authority over everything and everyone; he created mankind to know him and rule under him; but mankind rebelled against God and tried to kick him off his throne; this rebellion is called sin. All of us have sinned and so deserve to suffer death and God's wrath forever. But God sent Christ Jesus to live the life we should have lived, and he died the death sinners deserved on the cross. Three days later Christ was raised so that anyone one who responds to him in faith, who trusts fully in his work to

make them right with God, anyone who does so and turns from their sins will be forgiven of their sins and inherit eternal life. So, my friend if you're not a Christian, don't get caught up in the glory of a pastor tonight; instead get caught up in the glory of the good news I just shared. Your sins can be fully forgiven. O, Repent of your sins and trust in Christ. And I'd be happy to more with you about what that means; I'll be standing at that door after the service.

As we think about what's coming after the service and beyond, friends, don't forget about this Weds. the 25th; So sept 25th, 1994, Mark was installed as the pastor here at CHBC. So, we'll celebrate the Dever's Golden 25th anniversary with a church potluck starting at 5:15 and a hymn sing afterward. All our welcome to that. And Mary Beth comes now to give us some directions about the potluck.

And while she's coming up, let me remind you that for the hymn sing on Weds. we currently have enough caregivers to provide childcare for infants 0 to 11 months for CHBC members only. If anyone else would like to volunteer to serve in childcare, we may be able to provide it for older ages as well; please contact Gio Lynch if you would like to help. Mary Beth tell us what you need for the potluck.

MARY BETH SHARES

That's a heads up about Weds. In terms of our service tonight, I mentioned we'd be hearing from friends of our church, and that's because the theme of tonight's service is celebrating the starting or restarting of churches in the D.C. area; celebrating the starting or restarting of churches in the D.C. area. That we've been able to do this as a church is one of the blessings God has given us during the Devers' years with us.

Matter of fact, turn to Acts 15:36. Acts 15:36—it's on p. 924 of those red Bibles around you; and if you're visiting and you don't own a Bible feel free to take that red one as a gift from us to you. Acts 15:36, the context is that Jesus has died, risen, and gone UP to heaven, his Spirit has come DOWN and filled his followers at Pentecost. The gospel is spreading; it's going forward. And two people who played a big part in the gospel going forward, curiously look *backward*. Acts 15:36 says:

*And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us **return** and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, **and see how they are.**"*

Beloved, this verse has marked the Dever's ministry. The Apostle Paul cared for other believers in churches. He wasn't just out for statistics; he was out for knowing how the people, however few, were doing. And we want our own church

to reflect this apostolic burden. So we've sent pastors out to proclaim the gospel in and around D.C., now we want to see how those who have heard the word proclaimed are doing. Lig said it this morning: God has done amazing things in this city, and tonight is our chance to reflect on that as we have our own live version of Acts 15:36. We'll hear from pastors we've sent out, on behalf of their churches, as we check in on the progress of the gospel in the D.C. area. And in so doing we'll encourage the Devers.

So, Mark & Connie come on up. I want you guys to see whose here. Take a look. We love you guys, we honor you now. Can we clap for Mark & Connie?

(15 minute applause, check); Everyone keep standing. We're going to play one of Mark's favorite games, he loves doing calisthenics at conferences to see whose here. So...

- If your time at CHBC (whenever that was, however long that was) started after Mark Dever arrived as the pastor, please be seated. (So to be clear, everyone standing was here before Mark).
- Now remain standing if you were a part of the pulpit search committee that looked for Mark as the pastor?
- For our book giveaways tonight, I have the original 9Marks booklets, these are the O.G.s, they are like holographic ecclesiology pokemon cards. Amazon don't know about these. And after the service, you can see a map here of how the book 9Marks progressed over the years. Connie you go back and grab a seat. And Mark, just so you stay humble, why don't you run these books on over to your bff, Matt?
- And for your hard work, Mark and Connie here are some gifts the congregation is giving you for 25 years of faithful service:
 - So we've sown you guys a couple of quilts as a congregation. Gio will be delivering those to you privately tonight. We're also recording tonight's service, so we'll give you a DVD of this service. If you don't know what a DVD is you can ask Mark.
 - Maxine found a copy of the bulletin from your installation in 1994.
 - Brothers and sisters you see this map, this is Connie's gift to Mark. It shows how God has brought different 9Marks materials and people we've trained from CHBC to the four corners of the world. So tonight we're focusing on D.C. area, but come check out this map later tonight to see an even bigger picture of what God has done. There is but one rule for this map: Please don't touch it!
 - Another gift Connie has given Mark is this beautiful song we sang this morning and evening, Come Bless the Lord you can see that on the front of your song sheets along with a sweet citation at the bottom.

- Mark, we've also as a congregation given you the gift of a balcony outside your study window. So Mark loves sitting outside in rocking chairs. But it was really sad the other day, I was taking out the trash. The dumpsters were in a corner of a parking lot, and I looked and I was like who is behind the dumpster, and Mark was just sitting there behind the dumpsters in the parking lot. Rocking. So Mark, now you don't have to do that. And your perch will start being built this fall.

Yet even better than balconies being built are churches being built up. And that's what God has been doing in the D.C. Area. So I'm going to have the pastors we've sent out come up in the order that we've sent them out, and y'all will stand across the stage. So can I have Mike McKinley, Mike Law Jr, Garrett Conner, Garrett Kell, Thabiti Anyabwile, Nick Roark, Zach Schlegel, and John Joseph come and line up here.

Brothers and sisters, here is the timeline of some churches in this area in the flesh. So we sent out...

- Mike McKinley in 2005 to Guilford Baptist Church which merged w/ Sterling Park Baptist Church in Northern Virginia. We sent...
- Mike Law Jr in 2008. Mike first went to First Baptist Church of Ballston, then he planted Grace Baptist of Arlington in 2009, which merged w/ Arlington Baptist Church in July 2014 in Northern Virginia.
- We sent Garrett Conner in 2010 to La Plata Baptist Church in Southern Maryland.
- We sent Garrett Kell in 2012 to Del Ray Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.
- We sent Thabiti Anyabwile in 2015 to plant Anacostia River Church in Southeast D.C.
- We sent Nick Roark in 2015 to Franconia Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.
- We've sent Zach Schlegel in 2016 to First Baptist Church of Upper Marlboro in Maryland.
- And we sent John Joseph in 2018 to plant Cheverly Baptist Church in Maryland.

Brothers and sisters, can we clap for the hard work these brothers have done and thank God for what he's done through them in our area. Brothers, you can go ahead and grab a seat. As they're sitting, let's recognize that God has had us send folks beyond D.C. He's sent folks to Maryland, to Virginia. It's like, "D.C., come out with your hands up, we have you surrounded." So, praise God for these brothers.

Testimony: 5:35-6:35

And yet while we love the brothers, standing next to and behind these men of God, are women of God. Recently, the pastoral staff was at a conference for young pastors and their wives, and one wife asked Mark, what can I be doing as the wife of a pastor? And you know what Mark said? He said you can encourage your husband. And Connie, yours has been a ministry of encouraging us by encouraging Mark for 25 years and then some; so before we talk any more about him, ladies first: Gio, who we celebrated 10 years of her being here earlier this year, comes now to encourage you, Connie.

GIO ENCOURAGES (5)

Thank you, Gio. Erin Wheeler, want to come on up? I know I said tonight is about the D.C. Area, but the truth is *by God's grace*, we've sent folks all over, so the Van Steenburgs are here, the Lawrences, and Erin Wheeler comes now, from Arkansas, to encourage you, Connie.

ERIN SHARES (5)

Thanks, Erin. Brothers and sisters, we're leaving the South and coming back to the D.C. Area. I've asked a few brothers to briefly share: How their ministries began at their churches (that is, how they were sent out of CHBC), something Mark taught them, and how their churches are doing.

Thabiti was the M.C. of Mark's 15th anniversary 10 years ago, so Thabiti why don't you come up first and pick up where you left off, and Mike McKinley, you'll go after Thabiti.

THABITI SHARES (Mike Law you're after Mike McKinley)

MIKE McKinley SHARES (Nick Roark you're after Mike Law)

MIKE LAW SHARES (Zach Schlegel you're after Nick)

NICK ROARK SHARES

ZACH SCHLEGEL SHARES

Amen. So we've had the joy of hearing from folks we know, but the reality is in Acts 15, Paul didn't personally know all the believers who were affected by his ministry. So I've asked, Garret Kell to share an update about his church and a testimony about how Mark's ministry has blessed people he doesn't even know.

GARRETT KELL SHARES (5)

Beloved, lest we think that Mark and Connie's 25 years has just been easy, or these brothers' and sisters' years has just been easy, let's remember that the Lord brings us through mountaintops, *and valleys*. So Garrett Conner comes now to share an update about his church and a testimony about how Mark has encouraged him in his suffering.

GARRETT CONNER SHARES (5)

Last, but not least, the most recent team we've sent out was led by our brother John Joseph. As the baby of the group, He's going to give a brief update about his church and share a testimony about how Mark has been a blessing to him from spiritual infancy to pastoring.

JOHN JOSEPH SHARES (5)

Amen, brothers and sisters in light of this feast of encouragement, can you believe that we can pray to God with our hearts so full, and still ask him for even more? That's what we're going to do now. So let me have Thabiti, Mike Law, Mike McKinley, Nick Roark, and Zach Schlegel come back up.

PRAY: 6:15-6:25

- Thabiti -- can you pray for Mark and Connie's joy in the Lord to be full, evident, and primary.
- Mike Law -- can you pray for churches that have been started by folks sent from CHBC (this can be general, not each specific church).
- Mike McKinley -- can you pray for the Dever's family (parents, grandparents, their marriage).
- Nick -- Can you pray for 9Marks, that the Lord would continue to bless and use it
- Zach -- Can you pray that Mark would have the grace to be evidently humble in all he does and to give the glory to God. After all what do the Dever's have that they have not received?

These are the things we're going to pray about. These brothers are going to pray briefly from the pulpit mic here. Let's pray together.

SING: 6:25-6:30

The ensemble can make their way forward for the last song. As Mark always says we glorify God when we ask of him. And Mark and Connie have labored to build a culture of glorifying God in song, that's what we'll do Weds. Night. And that's what we'll do now. So let's sing because in Christ, over the decades, it is

well in our soul. You'll find the hymn It Is Well in your song sheets, let's stand.
Let's sing.

Amen as you remain standing, we'll end with this prayer from Psalm 90. (verse
12-14) Amen, please be seated for a moment of silent reflection.