

**November 3: All Saints Sunday, HC**

Series: Why Do You Buy That?

Message: #9: My Ancestry

Scripture: Romans 6:3-8, Colossians 2:9-15, and 1 John 3:1-2

Memory Verse: "God destined us to be His adopted children through Jesus Christ because of His love. This was according to His goodwill and plan." -Ephesians 1:5

Blurb: "You are the sum of what you have done!" This proverb seems to seal our fate that our past now determines our lives. But this Sunday we hear about a different heritage that can become ours when we choose Jesus. Our lives are determined by our past, yes, but it is the new past Jesus gives us! We celebrate All Saints Sunday and remember that those who have died are alive, living out a new future given to them by their Jesus-given ancestry!

**Opening Song:** *Lift High the Name of Jesus* -Sanctify

**Welcome:** -Pastor David

Holy Communion, open for everyone!

**Memory Verse:**

"God destined us to be His adopted children through Jesus Christ because of His love." - Ephesians 1:5a

**Worship Music Set:** -Sanctify

*Enough*

*I Sing a Song for the Saints of God*

*Good, Good Father*

Worship Prayer

**Grow Moment:** Stewardship -Teresa Gruber

Video

**Kid's Moment** -Andrew

Play dough - give kids two amounts of play dough of two different colors. Have them mix the colors to make a 3<sup>rd</sup> color. Message: Your identity comes from your parents (two initial colors) but God creates in you a new identity (new color) He wants.

**Message:** Why Do You Buy That? #9: My Ancestry

**Bumper video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQcfK9EKfL4> (30 seconds)

Super Bowl 50 - Mountain Dew: "Puppy Monkey Baby" (2016)

Mountain Dew: Puppy-Monkey-Baby (weird!!) (The 3 best things - Dew, juice, caffeine!)

**PP#1:** *Image of the Puppy-Monkey-Baby in the Mt. Dew commercial.*

Okay, that is ranked as one of the most bizarre commercials ever! And it was such a marketing flop, that it became a success, because, it was so strange that everyone talked about it. It was a Super Bowl Mountain Dew commercial from two years ago. They were targeting, of course, young adult male football watchers. They wanted to communicate that Mountain Dew has three amazing ingredients: 1. Dew (whatever that means), 2. Juice (although just the tiniest amount), and 3. Caffeine. So, they polled young adult male football watchers and asked them what they thought was cute. The top three were babies, puppies, and monkeys. So, Mountain Dew decided that *combining* these three top winners would create the *best* thing. Hence, the "Puppy-Monkey-Baby" creature - a combination of the three best things, just like Mountain Dew. Well, the franken-creature, at best, is disturbing, but it also shows that in advertising, you don't have to have a success to be successful.

We'll, let's try to leave that awful image far behind. But I use it to introduce the idea that as Jesus-followers, we have the best of three as well. We have the best present life. We have the best past. And we have the best future. It's all ours, all three in one!

**PP#2:** Why Do We Buy That?

My Ancestry.

John 1:12-13 "But those who did welcome Him, those who believed in His name, He authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God."

Why Do We Buy That? My Ancestry. John 1:12-13 "But those who did welcome Him, those who believed in His name, He authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God."

One of the greatest struggles we have as people is living with ourselves. If we're honest, we are often our own worst enemy. Nathan, Reese, and I were watching the first season of *Green Arrow* on Netflix recently. And in one episode, thanks to a drug called Virtigo, Green Arrow's opponent face appears as what he fears most. So, when the Green Arrow looks at him, guess who he saw? He saw his own face!

That's true for most of us, I think. Not that we are scary monsters, but we realize that we usually cause most of our own problems. Now, we've made blame-passing an art form in our current culture. But when we stop long enough to reflect, we have to admit that we are our own problem.

We are stuck, because of our immature, unhealthy, and warped habits and patterns. The consequences of our past decisions is like a tightening noose around our necks. How often was I told by my parents—and to my horror I notice I say also as a parent—the proverb, "You made your bed, now lie in it!"

**PP#3:** *An image for how we are now the sum of all our past.*

Your present is the sum of all your past choices. There is truth here, isn't there. Actions do have consequences. And part of maturity is to make decisions today in a way that sets up success for tomorrow. Wisdom is living in a life-giving way. But too often we feel the choking restriction of bad past decisions. Money spent happily yesterday leaves no money for what we need today. Relationship choices yesterday leave us trapped or alone or broken today. Addictions keep us prisoner. We are not free today. We are not living abundantly.

But, it is right here where Jesus brings us life. Jesus says He can save us right here, right now. He can break the power of what ties us down, the hold that sin has on our lives. Through forgiveness and healing, the consequences of our past, if not removed, can be broken.

Now, I'm not saying that Jesus will bail you out from debt you've amassed by gambling, or take away an injury caused by reckless behavior. Although, I must say, that is possible. But the healing that Jesus brings is a deeper healing, one that restores vitality to your dead life. It targets the sin and death you live with. Jesus can bring hope back into your eyes, restore relationships you've burned, give you a new reason for living, provide a joyful path through the difficulty ahead.

#### **PP#4: My Ancestry**

##### 1. Jesus offers the best present

John 1:12-13 "But those who did welcome Him, those who believed in His name, He authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God."

So, here is one of the three-fold bests that Jesus offers. He offers you the best present. He can change your life. He can break the shackles you have locked around your own life. He can lift the burden you have placed on your shoulders. He can free you from whatever you have chosen to tie around your neck. You can be free! Today! You can stand upright again. You can have a smile on your face. You can rest peacefully tonight. It comes from choosing Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. He will put you right with God, and restore you to who you know, down deep, you are.

He will grant you forgiveness in the present, *as a present*. You see, you don't need to do anything to earn it. He simply offers it willingly. He has already done the work to earn your freedom. It is a gift that He simply offers to you. All you need to do is accept it. And what makes Jesus so amazing is not just that He has done the work to save us, but that today He comes to us where we are at and He places our restoration within the reach of our bound hands. Wow! Jesus offers the best present, the best gift, which is the best present, the best today, that we could ever hope for.

I want to try to draw this in some way on this chart. No, I can't show it perfectly, but perhaps this will help you.

[Draw a black arrow sloping down to the right.]

I draw our life as an arrow, heading down. We're like a crashing plane, bound by all of our past stupid choices, that send us heading for the ground: Mayday! Mayday!

But, at what can be today, we can ask Jesus to intervene.

[Draw a red point on the line and a cross above it.]

We can ask Jesus into our lives. And today can be the best present, in both senses of the word. If you haven't done this, there is no time like the present. Simply ask Jesus to come into your heart. Invite Him to be your Lord and savior. If you want some help with this, after worship, come up to the front pew of the church here on the left, and members of the prayer team will pray with you. You don't have to stay stuck where you are. You can have Jesus right now!

Now, I'm going to draw Jesus here on this picture, but remember, as a picture this can't show all of this amazing reality. But perhaps it'll help you see a glimpse.

John 1:12-13 says, "But those who did welcome Him, those who believed in His name, He authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God." Your identity changes, from being a child of your sin, to being a child of God!

[Draw a red up arrow through the black arrow, intersecting at the cross point.]

I draw Jesus as an up arrow, because Jesus was dead and buried in the ground. But He rose up again, and lives and reigns forever. And His earthly task is now to lift others into glory as well. Where these two arrows intersect is where we ask Jesus into our hearts. And when we do, Jesus applies His death on the cross to our lives.

#### **PP#5: My Ancestry**

1. Jesus offers the best present
2. Jesus offers the best past

Colossians 2:14 "God destroyed the record of the debt we owed, with its requirements that worked against us. He canceled it by nailing it to the cross."

And here we can see the second of the three-fold bests in our lives. You see, when we ask Jesus into our lives, through forgiveness, He frees us from all the sin in our past by giving us His past as our past!

[Use the red marker to scribble out the past in the black arrow, and draw a black past in the red arrow past.]

He takes our past on Himself, and give us His past. We are given a new past!

We need to go to the Bible to really understand this. You may have read these passages, but were a bit confused by them. Hearing them today in this context may help them make sense.

#### **PP#6: Romans 6:3-8 (CEB)**

3 Or don't you know that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore, we were buried together with Him through baptism into His death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life. 5 If we were united together in a death like His, we will also be united together in a resurrection like His. 6 This is what we know: the person that we used to be was crucified with Him in order to get rid of the corpse that had been controlled by sin. That way we wouldn't be slaves to sin anymore, 7 because a person who has died has been freed from sin's power. 8 But if we died with Christ, we have faith that we will also live with Him."

Turn to Romans 6. Paul is trying to explain this new present and past that we win when we take Jesus. He says that when we become a disciple of Jesus, marked by baptism, we inherit as our own the death and resurrection that Jesus experienced. Pick it up in verse 3, "Don't you know that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized [joined] into His [past] death? Therefore, we were buried together with Him through baptism into His death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life [now]. If we were united together in a [past] death like His, we will also be united together in a resurrection like His. [That will be my third point...I bet you didn't see that coming!] This is what we know: the person that we used to be was crucified with Him in order to get rid of the corpse [body] that had been controlled by sin. That way we wouldn't be slaves to sin anymore, because a person who has died has been

freed from sin's power. But if we died with Christ [our past is now joined with Christ's], we have faith that we will also live with Him." We live abundantly now in the present, and eternally to come.

Paul is trying to explain how choosing Jesus means our salvation. Is it starting to make sense? Jesus gives us the victory He won through His death and resurrection. We get it in our lives, and it becomes our past, too. Our old self, riddled with sin, shackled in consequences, and heading for destruction, is nailed to the cross with Jesus. And we are given the life now created in us by Jesus.

**PP#7:** Colossians 2:9-14 (CEB)

9 All the fullness of deity lives in Christ's body. 10 And you have been filled by Him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. 11 In Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by human hands. The circumcision of Christ is realized in the stripping away of the whole self dominated by sin. 12 You were buried with Him through baptism and raised with Him through faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Let's take one more go at this. Turn to Colossians 2, where Paul explains it again. Pick it up in verse 9: "All the fullness of deity [God] lives in Christ's body. And you have been filled by Him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. [We have God's presence with us in the Holy Spirit living within us. Now, Paul uses the Jewish tradition of circumcision. When you hear this, think "mark" or "sign" of identity.] In Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by human hands. The circumcision [remember, identity] of Christ is realized in the stripping away of the whole self, dominated by sin. You were buried with Him through baptism and raised with Him through faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead."

**PP#8:** Colossians 2:9-14 (CEB)

13 When you were dead because of the things you had done wrong and because your body wasn't circumcised, God made you alive with Christ and forgave all the things you had done wrong. 14 He destroyed the record of the debt we owed, with its requirements that worked against us. He canceled it by nailing it to the cross.

Verse 13, "When you were dead because of the things you had done wrong [all your past] and because your body wasn't circumcised [you didn't belong to God], God made you alive with Christ [now in the present] and forgave all the things you had done wrong. He destroyed the record of the debt we owed [scribbling out our past], with its requirements [consequences] that worked against us. He canceled it by nailing it to the cross."

Ultimately this is a mystery we cannot understand. But Church, Jesus' death and resurrection is not just something that He did for the world long ago. When we choose Jesus, it becomes our past. Our past now shows that we have paid the price of sin, and we have the power of resurrection as our own. When we choose Jesus, we get a different past. We are freed from the consequences of our past sin, and we can live differently and abundantly now.

It's time for our main TV commercial. It's a commercial for Ancestry.com from the same year as the disturbing Puppy-Monkey-Baby. Notice in the commercial how Kyle's past becomes a new past.

**Sermon Commercial:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84LnTrQ2us8> (30 seconds)

Kyle | Ancestry Stories | Ancestry (2016)

Kyle used to live out his German heritage. But then, he learns of his new past. And it changes his present. He no longer wears lederhosen, but instead wears kilts. He has a new past, and that gives him a new present.

**PP#9:** *Image of a person standing in a prison cell with the door open to a new life path.*

Church, what do you need to take off from your old past? What do you need to put away, because it is no longer a part of your present identity. We are often our own worst enemy, and that can be because we won't let go of what we are holding on to from our own past. Jesus has unlocked the shackles, has opened the prison door. But we need to step out. Are you holding on to destructive patterns from your former way of life. Do you think that they still hold power over you? Is your anger still out of control? Is your heart still bitter with resentment or hardened by past offense? Do you still go to old haunts seeking fun and happiness?

A person coming out of recovery is told he has to make different friends. He is changed and can't go back to the same life as before. This is why you need this church. You need a different set of friends in your life, calling you to your new way of life. You can be a Christian on your own, but God has given you the blessing of a church family to help you, to correct and support you in a new and different way of life. This church is part of the way God has given you new life!

Don't stay trapped in your old habits, your familiar way of life. I watched a video of a flying insect that was put in a glass with a lid. For a whole day, the bug buzzed and flew around inside the glass. Eventually it stopped trying to get out. The next day, the lid was removed. The bug kept flying around, but it never tried to fly out the top. It had become so accustomed to staying inside the glass.

Don't be this bug! You have a new freedom! Live now based on your Jesus-given past! Put aside all those things that you used to do that held you down. Now you can live giving forgiveness, seeing hope, resisting temptation, investing in people anew. You do that by taking whatever it is that globs onto you, and you turning it over to Jesus. Proclaim that it cannot hold you, because that part of you has been crucified. Instead, respond from the Holy Spirit inside of you, with strength to resist, to return blessing, to grant forgiveness. Remember your new past!

My wife has shared much of her story. Her grandmother committed suicide. And then, on the day she left for college, her mother also committed suicide. Psychology will tell you that suicide can be inherited, passed down from one generation to the next. And it often happens in threes. But Reese has a personal witness to Jesus in her life. She says with teeth-gritted determination, because of Jesus, her heritage of suicide stops with her. Jesus gives her a new past, and a new present. That doesn't mean she doesn't struggle with the consequences of her heritage or her family history. But it does mean she has the Holy Spirit to break its power in her life. Her mother committed suicide in a broken and hopeless life without Jesus at the age of 40. My wife this summer turned 50!

**PP#10:** My Ancestry

1. Jesus offers the best present
2. Jesus offers the best past
3. Jesus offers the best future

1 Corinthians 6:14 "Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power."

And of course, as you now expect, the third of the three-fold bests that Jesus offers us is *the best future*. Jesus' resurrection become the seal for our future. We now have a future of resurrection

after death and life eternal in glory and perfection. Our future path is not determined by our old past, but it is set by our new path. The consequences, the trajectory, of our new past send us into a new future.

[In black draw a new black arrow inside the red upturned arrow, and then in red scribble out the black down turned arrow.]

1 Corinthians 6:14 “Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.”

**PP#11** 1 John 3:1-2 (CEB)

1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Last year we read 1 John together. Let’s go back to chapter 3. We’ll hear about this promised future. 1 John 3:1, “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! [This is our new identity!] And that is what we are! [This means that our new family is God’s family!] The reason the world does not know us [understand us] is that it did not know Him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and [that means that] what we will be [some day, in glory] has not yet been made known. [In this life we really cannot understand what it will be like after our resurrection.] But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Our future is to live like Jesus, and to live with Jesus. This is our new future.

This is true for all those today on All Saint’s Day whom we remember who have died in Christ. They are not dead, but alive! They will live eternally because of Jesus’ resurrection applied to them.

And it is true for us, when we choose Jesus. We are given the best future, not the death that our former past requires, but life eternal in glory. To get this new future, we need a new past, because our past determines our future!

**PP#12:** My Ancestry

1. Jesus offers the best present
2. Jesus offers the best past
3. Jesus offers the best future

1 Corinthians 6:14 “Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.”

Why do we buy this? Because we have a new ancestry! When we choose Jesus we become God’s children. And that gives us a new past, one we didn’t realize before. It applies Jesus’ death and resurrection to our lives. In a moment we will celebrate Holy Communion. When Jesus first did this, He told His followers from then on to remember. We weren’t there, but we can still remember. Why? Because this is now our new past! When we eat and drink in remembrance of Jesus, we remember that His death and resurrection becomes ours. That makes us God’s children now, able to live differently today. And it determines a new future, where we will live forever in glory with all the saints of God.

Puppy-Baby-Monkey? That was creepy. Mountain Dew doesn't combine the three best parts. Jesus does: the best present, the best past, and the best future. And it becomes yours, as your life is now co-joined with Jesus, and your life arrow is in alignment with His.

Amen.

**All Saints Remembrance** -Lighting candles for those who have died.

We're now going to remember those who have died in Christ this past year, and proclaim their new future has started. They are not dead, but alive. If you have written a name down in our church's memory books, I ask you to please come up, and hold a candle. Also, if you are here for a church person who has died this past year, please come up also and take a candle.

We're going to read each of their names, and as we do, we'll light a candle showing that they are not dead, but alive in Christ.

[Reading of the names, and lighting of the candles.]

Let us pray... [Prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance.]

[Place candles in the display.]

**Holy Communion**

Prayers

The family of Christ becomes your new family

Those who have gone on before help set you on your way now

We take Holy Communion with the Company of Saints, because they are alive!

We remember Jesus, and the faithfulness of His past disciples, to shape how we live  
now

Take a moment to pray, asking God to help you remember someone who showed  
Jesus to you, who has gone home to glory.

Consider what that person taught you about how you can live today for Jesus.

Ask God to help you put away what keeps you from living that way

And then put on new ways of living.

Let's pray. [Time of silence]

Words of Grace

"The Great Thanksgiving" For All Saint's Day (*BOW #74*)

Offering

Receiving of the elements

Song: *Faith of Our Fathers*

**Closing Song:** *Days of Elijah* -Sanctify

**Memory Verse:**

"God destined us to be His adopted children through Jesus Christ because of His love. -  
Ephesians 1:5

**Announcements:** -Pastor David

Wednesday meal & groups

**Benediction:** -Pastor David