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## HOURLY OF POWER OF 17.02.2008

### PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

From the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, join Robert Schuller in an Hour of Power now celebrating our 36th year as the face and voice of positive Christianity to the world.

### HYMN - "Joyful, Joyful.."

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day. Amen! Amen! Amen!

### GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RHS: Good morning. Turn around, shake hands with somebody behind you and give them our blessing; God loves you and so do I.

This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. I'm telling you, when you walk out of here, oh you'll be taking something with you and that's a fact. So Lord, thank You for what You're preparing to give to us. Something that will become a treasure in our memory. Amen.

### HYMN - "Rejoice, the Lord is King"

Rejoice, the Lord is King: Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Triumph in God above: Sing we to our Redeemer King, the God of love. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His Kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven; The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

### SCRIPTURE – JOHN – I AM - RAS

RAS: Please be seated. In the scripture I'm going to read for you, is one that will share with us the treasures that we find, because my father is speaking on that topic and his sermon is entitled, "Finding Life's Treasures." And so I'm going to share some wonderful words with you this morning. These are the words of Jesus. Hear them:

If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. Most assuredly I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. I am the Light of the World. All who follow Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life. I am the Bread of Life. All who come to Me shall never hunger, and all who believe in Me shall never thirst. I am the Door. If any enter by Me, they will be saved. I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd and I know My sheep and am known by My own. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. I am the True Vine and My Father is the Vinedresser. I am the

Resurrection and the Life. All who believe in Me though they may die, they shall live.

ANTHEM - "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God! Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love, so amazing, so divine, divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

RAS THANK YOU TO MICHAEL & CHOIR

RAS: Michael, thank you for that powerful, powerful rendition of a fabulous song. I love those words: love so amazing, love so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. And that's the message of the cross.

INTERVIEW – DENZEL WASHINGTON

RAS: Today I'm honored to be sitting on location next to one of Hollywood's finest actors, Denzel Washington. Denzel has been nominated for five academy awards and he's taken two of them home. He's renowned as an actor, an activist and what I'm most interested in, as a man of faith in Jesus Christ. Currently, Denzel has directed and is starring in a new film entitled "The Great Debaters." You know, Newsweek called it stirring and personally I think it has to be one of the best films I've ever seen, and clearly the best film I've seen this year. It is a rare story that is engaging and entertaining and so I want you to see a little video and just take a look at this a minute:

(VIDEO ROLL IN)

MAN: I am the darker brother. I too am American. I want you to try out for the debate team.

BOY: Are you sure you want somebody like me?

MAN: No. That's why you're trying out. Gentlemen and ladies, debate is combat, but your weapons are words.

VO: In a time of change, he taught them to find their strength.

BOY: Dad, I made the debate team.

MAN: Now Tolson kid can be a bit of a rebel. A little extreme for my taste.

MAN: Debate is blood sport. You must destroy your opponent, not only verbally but physically. I am here to help you to find and keep your righteous mind.

VO: When our nation was in need, he inspired them to give us hope.

FEMALE: The time for justice is always right now!

BOY: She's it. (GROUP OF PEOPLE CHANTING)

MAN: Everybody knows he's been running around stirring up trouble.

MAN: Get down.

MAN: One of them is liable to get hurt, if you catch my drift.

MAN: Mr. Tolson!

MAN: This is clear that you have no evidence, I suggest you let him go.

MAN: Are you threatening me boy?

MAN: I wouldn't do that but I cannot speak for those people outside. (GROUP OF PEOPLE – LET HIM GO)

FEMALE: This came.

MAN: It looks like somebody opened it already.

FEMALE: Not me.

MAN: Dear Mr. Tolson, we wish to extend an invitation to a debate in Harvard Crimson. We'll be one of the first Negro colleges in America to ever debate a white college. If we defeat them, we defeat the best.

FEMALE: What's the matter? You afraid?

VO: From director Denzel Washington and producer Oprah Winfrey comes the story..

MAN: This debate is stirring up a lot of excitement. It's going to be broadcast all over America.

VO: ..of the team that got the world to listen. (SINGING – MUSIC)

MAN: This is WNBC radio, bringing to you live tonight's history making debate. (MUSIC)

VO: Academy award winner Denzel Washington, Academy award winner Forest Whitaker..

MAN: My message to you is to never quit.

VO: ..The Great Debaters. (MUSIC)

(END OF VIDEO ROLL IN)

RAS: So what stands out in this movie for you?

DW: Well, when I first read it, I just was inspired. I was moved by the story and not so much what these young children go through, I just briefly.. to give you a brief synopsis..

RAS: Yeah, please.

DW: In 1935, there was this is a little college in Marshall Texas called Wiley College..

RAS: Right.

DW: ..and 360 students, very small college, a poor college. And that year they had the best debating team in the country. They had a fantastic professor by the name of Mel Tolson who taught them to believe in themselves and to believe that they could up against the big boys and they did. In our film..

RAS: That was the role you took, correct? That's..

DW: ..that's the role I played as well as being the director.

RAS: ..exactly.

DW: And so they went up against, well in the movie we say its Harvard, it was actually USC was actually the..

RAS: Yeah, I was a little disappointed about that, you know. My daughter's going to USC currently. And that's okay. That's okay, we'll let it go.

DW: Thank you. Actually that change had been made before I came on the picture, but the fact of the matter is they beat Harvard as well, too, so.

RAS: You know, one of the things we're really interested in is some of the things that impact society through movies. So from a historical standpoint, we see some change that has taken place in society today, specifically in the realm of social ethics and social morality and what's taking place in racism today. How would you depict and describe what it was, what are we talking about, 70 years ago compared to what's happening today?

DW: Well I think obviously there's been tremendous changes. It's interesting, I did a cover for Ebony Magazine with Oprah Winfrey and on the cover, one of the articles talked about the nooses that had been showing up everywhere, so..

RAS: Yeah.

DW: ..you know it's sad that something like that still happens, but now a days it's exceptional, you know, its news. In 1935 it wasn't even news. It wasn't exceptional, it was the norm. Needless to say there's been tremendous change since then, but for me in this film and in this story, it's not so much about those obstacles but how they overcome and ultimately win in spite of those obstacles. I think those obstacles are always there whatever they are, be it race, whatever it is, you know the saying is you never have a testimony without a test, so those tests will be there.

RAS: So this is the first time you've done a film with Oprah.

DW: Yeah.

RAS: Is that a positive experience, I'm assuming so.

DW: She's a dynamo, I mean she's a..

RAS: She's Oprah, yeah, she's Oprah!

DW: ..Oprah, she's Oprah, exactly, exactly but she was very much hands off, she didn't, you know, put her mark or hand or you know in everything, she let me do what I wanted to do, and she's been very supportive.

RAS: What's your favorite scene in the movie?

DW: Wow, that's a good one. You know I always like the opening, too. My mother used to say this prayer: dear Lord we come before thee, knee bent and body bowed in the humblest way that we know how. So I put that right in the beginning of the picture, I can't wait for my mother to see it. Yeah, yeah, we open the film..

RAS: Yeah.

DW: ..with a prayer, and we end the film with a praise and the last thing you hear is a song at the end of the trailer, so..

RAS: So your mother's still living and doing well?

DW: Yeah, my mother's still living in Maryland and doing well.

RAS: Your father was a preacher.

DW: My father was a minister in the Church of God in Christ for 60 years.

RAS: Really, for 60 years?

DW: 60 years.

RAS: He passed away, I understand what in the 90's?

DW: In the early 90's, yeah.

RAS: And so she's doing well and..

DW: She's doing great.

RAS: ..what impact has that had in your life?

DW: Well everything. I mean she's always been there for me. I mean and first of all, just perfect examples. Very good strong examples of what I should aspire to and just the way I was raised and in the church and my father was you know a gentleman, and a spirit filled man, a spirit filled man. He'd speak in tongues in the drop of a hat.

RAS: So tell me about your spiritual life? I don't think we hear a lot about it, we hear little pieces of it here and there.

DW: Right.

RAS: But you know the people who watch the Hour of Power are interested in finding out where a humans heart is.

DW: Right.

RAS: Where is your heart in relationship to Jesus Christ?

DW: My heart, I think, I hope it.. I pray is in the right place. You know as I said I grew up in the church and actually drifted away from the church for those early.. in the early 20's in my life..

RAS: It's common.

DW: ..yeah its common, its not the first time you've heard that.

RAS: No, not at all.

DW: I met my wife about 30 years ago now, when we were 9, no. I met my wife 30 years ago and she sort of got me back into the church and we started with just reading the daily word every day. And then I joined Bishop Blake's church in about 1981, 82 when I first came out here, when I started the show St. Elsewhere. And I've been a member ever since.

RAS: I met you there.

DW: Oh right.

RAS: Yeah, I met you there for the first time. I had my children with me.

DW: Yeah.

RAS: And they were so excited, at the time you had just finished The Preacher's Wife..

DW: The Preacher's Wife, right, Dudley.

RAS: ..and.. Dudley, yeah, my kids look across, they go.. their eyes got this big and they said Dad, Dudley's in church. You know? And that was a happy moment for them. Well you know we're looking forward to Martin Luther King Day soon, and I think part of the emphasis of this movie for me is the whole association with civil rights and the impact that's had in society. How do you view the impact of this movie in regards to civil rights?

DW: Well one of the debaters, actually, James Farmer Jr. who was we say 14, he was actually a 15 year old freshman, went on to start the congress on racial equality corps and was in fact one of the leaders of the civil rights movement and that's the only part of the story I actually knew was James Farmer's story, so there's a direct connection there. And again, I think beyond just the racial overtones or undertones of the film, I think there's a common denominator. We had a screening the other night and a young man stood up and he talked about one of the characters in the film. There's a young boy who plays James Farmer, who's sort of an awkward man child. He's not the cool guy, he doesn't get the girl and all of those things, and this young man related to that. He said he was glad to see someone in the film like him, you know. So I'm happy about that. There's four brilliant young kids: Jermaine Williams and Jurnee Smollett, Nate Parker and a young man named Denzel Whitaker, if you can believe that.

RAS: That was his first name?

DW: Yeah, yeah, fir..

RAS: Denzel isn't exactly a common name.

DW: Yeah, yeah, he said his mother didn't name him after me, but I don't know. But I was actually, when we made the film, I didn't think about how young people would relate. I hope that they would. But I think that its good for them to see young people in a film who are smart, that make sacrifices to achieve their goals, there's another character who sort of has one foot in the streets, if you will but changes his life around and as you come to find out by the end of the film, he actually went on to study theology and became a minister.

RAS: Wow. Well how has your faith been challenged? These kids really were challenged specifically when they saw that lynching. In the movie you have this rather graphic scene of a man who's obviously been lynched and burned and so those kids went through.. that was a real challenging thing for those kids to go through. And I think everyone goes through challenging times in life. I would assume you have.

DW: Well you know in this business, it's a constant challenge. You know, it doesn't.. I don't even want to say the industry doesn't necessarily embrace films like this, because we did get the film made. But there's a.. I think there's a

tendency to lean toward the darker side, blood and sex and drugs and whatever sells, seems to sell. So you're constantly fighting upstream. I mean I've tried to infuse in every character I've played just about, some sort of a spiritual message, even in the most negative. I did a film called Training Day, which was about an awful cop but the first thing I wrote on my script is the wages of sin is death. And in this film, this cop who's an awful man, he's an awful guy..

RAS: Yeah.

DW: ..the way the script was originally written, you didn't even see him die. I said I can't justify living in the worst way as this character unless he dies in the worst way. The community turns their back on him, just everyone goes against him and he ends up just being utterly destroyed. The cop that chases him down and knocks him out of the car and I said I literally wanted to slither on the ground like a snake and I wanted that message to be sent. Even when I played a role like Malcolm X, a man who had seen a lot of hatred in his life, and then spewed a lot of hatred, as a member of the nation of Islam, he was evolving spiritually. And I'm always looking for that. I always try to infuse that in every role I play. Everything that I did with this film, The Great Debaters, every important decision I made was a prayer filled decision. I would just stop for a second and I heard that voice constantly, do that, pick that, go there, make that decision, do that, no we're going to do it like this. And its just unfolded and it just.. it's a wonderful experience and a film that I'm proud of, and it's just a prayer filled picture.

RAS: It's clearly one of the best pictures I've seen. Tell me about your kids. You have how many children?

DW: I have four: two boys, two girls. I have a son who's a professional football player..

RAS: Yeah.

DW: ..my..

RAS: Plays for the Rams, right?

DW: ..he plays for the.. well he's not playing, he's..

RAS: Well he's on the Rams.

DW: He's on the team; he's on the team and..

RAS: Okay.

DW: ..thank God he's healthy. One of his players was telling me, you know, he's one of the spiritual leaders of the team. He's a fine young man. We're very proud of him. My daughter's a sophomore at an ivy league college, so she's obviously got that from her mother's side. And..

RAS: Well, a little bit maybe.

DW: ..little bit and we have 16 year old twins.

RAS: Oh that's beautiful. Well Denzel, I want to thank you for coming and sharing this time with us. I want you to come to the Cathedral again. I know you were there once..

DW: Right.

RAS: ..you came by with your.. was it your mother in law, right?

DW: Mother in law.

RAS: And so we want you to come by again. Come..

DW: I'd love to.

RAS: ..to one of our services sometime. And I want to thank you for walking in your own shoes, which is something that we all have to do. Your father walked in his own shoes, you're walking in your own shoes, your son's walking in his own shoes. And that happens to be the title of my book, it's a New York Times best seller, and I just want to give it to you as a way of saying thank you for your time

and your effort for coming and sharing with us everything you do here. And for producing and directing this wonderful movie, The Great Debaters.

DW: Thank you.

RAS: So..

DW: Thank you very much.

RAS: Thank you Denzel.

DW: Thank you.

RAS: God loves you and so do we.

DW: God loves you, too.

#### RAS INTRODUCES THE NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE CHOIR

RAS: And so, the Northwestern College from Orange City Iowa, where my mother donated the organ in the chapel. It's the Arvella Schuller organ. I've seen it, I've heard it. It's a spectacular instrument and I suppose the choir has sung with it more than once. Well we get the privilege of hearing the A Cappella Choir under the direction of Thomas Holm, would you please welcome them to the Crystal Cathedral.

#### ANTHEM/GUEST CHOIR – NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE A CAPPELLA CHOIR – “Go Where I Send Thee!”

Children go where I send thee! Children, how shall I send thee?

I'm going to send thee one by one, one for the little bitty baby, the baby boy born in Bethlehem.

Children go where I send thee! Children, how shall I send thee?

I'm going to send thee two by two, two for Paul and Silas, one for the little bitty baby, the baby boy born in Bethlehem.

Children go where I send thee! Children, how shall I send thee?

I'm going to send thee six by six, six for the days when the world was fixed, five for the bread they did divide, four for the Gospel writers, three for the Hebrew children, two for Paul and Silas, one for the little bitty baby, the baby boy born in Bethlehem.

Children go, go, go where I send thee! Children, how shall I send thee? I'm going to send thee twelve by twelve, twelve for the twelve disciples, eleven of them singing in heaven, ten for the Ten Commandments, nine for the angel choirs divine, eight for the eight the flood couldn't take, seven for the day God laid down His head, six for the days when the world was fixed, five for the bread they did divide, four for the Gospel writers, three for the Hebrew children, two for Paul and Silas, one for the little bitty baby, one for the little bitty baby, the baby boy born in Bethlehem.

{Sung as a round in 5 parts}

Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go, Go where I send thee!

#### RAS THANK YOU TO GUEST CHOIR

RAS: Thank you ladies and gentlemen for coming and sharing your talents your voices and your God given gifts with us. God bless you.

#### SOLO – ANTHONY EVANS – “I Choose Now”

Thank you guys for having me. It's an honor to be here with you.

I don't want tragedy to be the only thing that leads me to your throne. With every moment of my life, pain or joy, I will cry "You are God alone." You've given me the choice to kneel or walk away I've struggled with surrender long enough to say:

I choose now to be humbled in Your presence, I choose now to fall on my face 'cause one day every knee will bow, but Jesus, I choose now.

I have the scars, I can't deny it from thoughtless words and foolish talks, but you still forgave. I've wandered down a thousand roads lost my way, but you led me home where I was safe. I know heaven is a gift of your grace but until I see your face:

I choose now to be humbled in your presence, I choose now to fall on my face 'cause one day every knee will bow, but, Jesus, I choose to glorify Your name, that's why I was made to worship and obey, I won't wait.

I choose now to be humbled in Your presence, I choose now to fall on my face 'cause one day every knee they will bow, but, Jesus, I choose now! To be humbled in Your presence, I choose now to fall on my face 'cause one day every knee they will bow, but Jesus, I choose now. I choose now.

**RHS THANK YOU TO ANTHONY EVANS**

RHS: Wow, thank you so much. Give my best to your father, Tony. I've never met him but he's very famous to me. Tell him I've been hearing about him; would love to have him preach sometime for me, so give him my best, will you? Thank you for coming, very much.

**MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT H. SCHULLER**

"Finding Life's Greatest Treasures"

RHS: I receive letters from all over the world and have many requests for prayer. But I never before received a letter like I did this past week. Said "Dear Dr. Schuller, I listen to you, God has really heard your prayers. Starting from nothing and 50 years and then building this ministry. It's just amazing. Now I've a request. I want you to pray for me. I'm unemployed and will you please pray that I'll win the lottery?" Can you believe that? "To make sure you'll pray I promise you that I'll give you something if I win anything."

Well, there's a beautiful verse in Proverbs, you know the longer I live, the more I read the Bible the more astounded I am at the wisdom in this book. I think that in my lifetime, I grew up thinking that we were the smartest group of intelligent human beings ever to occupy planet earth. And that we were more enlightened, and more brilliant and that all previous people that lived on planet earth weren't that smart but we are very bright, we are very knowledgeable, we are very intelligent, we are very scientific, we're very wise. And now the longer I read the Bible, we don't come close; we don't come close to what's in that book.

My text today that I wanted to put before you is from Proverbs 25. Somebody, we think Solomon, wrote these words over 2000 years ago. Quote: "it is the glory of God to conceal a thing, and it is the glory of kings to find them." That's phenomenal how true it is. It's God's glory to hide treasures all over planet earth,

phenomenal. Wow. The pearl, He hides it in an oyster, and He hides the oyster in the deep waters. The diamond, He hides it in the ground, and then someone discovers it and polishes them. He even hides the beauty of the gem in the stone itself until it is brought out by the artisan. Wow. The pearl in an oyster, the diamond in the earth, and so it is gold nuggets waiting to be discovered, incredible. And the greatest discoveries, I'm sure, haven't been made yet. I have no doubt that the greatest piece of gold, natural nugget has yet to be found, somewhere on planet earth, accidentally, or providentially. It's these things that are hidden, by God. Last week, the week before, we discovered a new planet, a very tiny one, three hundred miles is it but they think there may be waterfalls on it. We haven't begun to discover all of life's realities. I'm often asked through my life, do you think that God ever created other human beings on planet earth? Could there be life out there? Well I don't know, I really don't care, but I wouldn't be surprised. I wouldn't be surprised if the biggest story ever to break on planet earth, will break when they may discover life on another planet, could well be. You know Martin Luther said that if I was God and the world had treated me the way it treated God, I'd have kicked the whole thing to pieces long ago. But He didn't. He sent His Savior. Wow.

Listen to the Bible verse, "It is the glory of God to conceal the thing, and it is the glory of kings to search them out." And I look across the airwaves today and probably that unknown letter writer is listening to me, and I want to say to you, gee, you're looking to win the lottery; you're looking the wrong place. There are treasures within you that can be brought out, and these treasures are intelligence, you can write a letter. There are treasures within you that can be harnessed, discovered, and exploited positively and creatively. Find the treasures in yourself. Every human being has a gift: if you can see that's a gift, if you can talk that's a gift, if you can touch that's a gift, if you can hear that's a gift, if you can see that's a gift, and every human being on planet earth can be an instrument of bringing encouragement, and hope and comfort and inspiration to somebody who is down at the bottom, yes. Greatest discoveries, treasures.

What's your greatest treasure? Interesting if we could pass a paper or have people pop up and say what's my greatest treasure? I had only one treasure as a little boy, it was a pocket knife, and I got it as a little kid, I don't know when I got it, or who gave it to me, but I know when and where I lost it. After the tornado had wiped out all of our buildings and killed the animals and we were just down flat, and we found a little house that could be moved, and we moved it, over the hole where our house stood. But it needed a whole new roof, and it needed to be shingled, and we shingled it, and when we finished shingling it, I missed my little pocket knife. And then I looked at the roof, I thought it must be maybe lying up there on the roof. And I saw a little bump under the shingles; there it was, under the shingles. And I said to dad, well I just think I'll leave it there. And it probably is still there. I don't know, I think I'll check up on it.

But listen, what is your greatest treasure today? Well, it may be a gem stone, it might be an autograph book, God only knows what it is. But you ask what's the greatest treasure? You know we have forest fires here once in awhile in California, if you watch around the world you'll see a fire here. And we've had many people sitting in here that have had to flee the fires and I've lived here 50 years, so I talk to a lot of people who escaped forest fires, and let me tell you, they all say, the one thing to take if you have to run and you can only take one thing, take the pictures, take the pictures! Even before you go for the jewelry, take the pictures. They're your greatest treasures, because you'll look at them, again and again, and your life will flow back to you, and you'll remember how good God

has been. Wow. It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; it is the glory of kings to discover them.

Where can you find treasures? You know, you really are getting down to the value system when you look at a Bible verse like this, but I think you find treasures all over, all around, you find them most importantly, I think, in relationships. People whom you can listen to and talk and touch. And the tragedy in the world is that you can be extremely wealthy, you can have gems, you can have jewels, you can have real-estate.

But ultimately it's not a thing, it's not a thing it's a thought. Look for treasures in your thinking and that's probably the core, the difference between a negative thinker and a positive thinker. Positive thinkers find value in positive thoughts. They find courage, they find inspiration, they find new hope, they find the courage to keep going through the most difficult times and to start over again when they think they've lost it all. Wow.

Where do you find treasures? You find it in your head, that's where you find it. You looking for a lottery? That's not the place to find the treasure. I'm not going to say that if you do happen to win the lottery, that I would refuse the gift that comes from it. Just to get it up front. But I do not to my knowledge believe we have ever gotten a dollar from anybody that won the lottery, and somebody said would you take money if it was won through a lottery, its tainted money? And I said yes, the Bible says that God says its tainted money cause it taint mine.

I want you to have an empowered life. That's what this ministry has been for 50 years. That's what it's going to be for the next 50 years. This is a place world known and where the pulpit, through the preacher that follows me, my son Robert, and through those that follow him through the decades, and centuries to come will give you the greatest gift you can give, and that gift will become your ultimate real treasure. Now, what is it? Its faith in God Almighty, and you find it because you find Jesus Christ, you want to get a little history here; there was a man that lived by the name of Jesus 2000 years ago. And He died on a cross when He was only 33 years old. Something happened three days later, the tomb was opened, the body was gone. His disciples saw Him in transfigured glory. I believe it actually happened. I believe its absolute history, and He's alive and listening to us now. You can become a friend; just accept Him as your Savior.

You know, I can't believe I ever did it, because it wasn't like me. I don't think I've ever done it since. It's just not my religious spirit. I'll never forget it. I was in a little church after I graduated from seminary in Chicago, Illinois, and there were 33 members, and I had to build a church, and so I went going door to door introducing myself, inviting people to come to the church. And I came to this one door, rang the door bell, a lady came, and I said, hello, I'm the new pastor in the little church here called the Ivanhoe reformed Church and I want to invite you to come to church. Oh, she said we don't go to church. From the dark room behind her, where all drapes were drawn, came a mans voice, said, who is it? She said, some preacher. He said, pardon the language, hell, tell him to go. Then, no let him come in, I want to tell him a thing or two. I'm about to run into one of the most troublesome scenes in my earthly life and out of it would come of the greatest treasures that God had hidden in the whole plan that would unfold.

Here he was sitting in a chair, about six empty beer cans and he was on his seventh. Wow. So you're a reverend are you? Yes. So, tell him.. never talk to a reverend before, but you're all a bunch of hypocrites, you know that don't you? Well I said, we have people in church that are not good people, that's what the church is here for, we invite bad people to come, we specialize in that. Yeah, we're not like the Rotary Club. You got to be good to get into the Rotary Club.

You got to be a sinner to get into our crowd, and then you get born again. Wow. He didn't like that at all, and I forget, it's been 50 some years ago, but then I do remember he made some insulting statements that I thought were rude, crude, ill behaved, and he caught me off guard and I know my final question to him was, well if you died tonight, would you go to heaven or to hell? He said, I don't (pardon my language) I don't give a damn, and I said well you can go to hell then, and I ran out and slammed the door.

I'll tell you, there isn't another human being on planet earth to whom Robert Schuller ever said you can go to hell, never. You know what I did, before I went into any house, I had little cards, I wrote down the address, blank up here, I'd write the name, and then down here, a-b-c-d, meaning a - good prospects, call him again, b-c-d - 0 don't waste your time, don't put them on the mailing list, but everybody else, I got their name, put them on the mailing list. I remember his name, I can tell you, it was Ray Doss, and I remember it was the only card on the bottom I said, don't put on the mailing list, don't waste your time.

Somebody made a mistake, obviously my secretary, and that name got put on the mailing list. To my shock a few weeks later, here he came to morning church in a suit, a shirt and a tie, and he said morning Reverend, I said well, you aren't where I told you to go. He came back the next week, it was only a few weeks later at the end of the service, he didn't leave, and he said Reverend, I'm accepting Jesus, will you baptize me? I said sure, he said now, I said sure, and everybody else had left and I took him in the front of the church, baptized him, Ray Doss, he never missed a Sunday. Wonderful. He would tell people, Jesus Christ is real, boy I know the difference. I've been to the other side, and I'm on this side, and I'll tell you, this side is a heck of a lot better.

And then I came and I left, he became a lay preacher, sharing his story and preaching all over the mid-west and our denomination licensed him as a legitimate lay preacher and they didn't do that very often. Now I came here to start this church, and I'd been working a few years, and I don't know how many years I'd been here when I got a letter from him. I hadn't heard from him and he said, I'm retiring, and he said I want to come and move to California, and I want to be a volunteer for you in your new church. Wow. So he came here, moved here, he mowed the lawn, he would clean fountains, washed windows, he was wonderful, wonderful. He accepted Jesus Christ. And we had his funeral here, and we buried him. But I want to share with you, the last words he spoke, he was going over there and he knew it, let me pull myself here. He said Reverend, I'm going home. He smiled and he said, I know where I'm going and it's not the place where you told me to go. Hallelujah! Amen. He found his greatest treasure. His greatest treasure.

And I invite you to do that, it's a mental thing. Your greatest treasure will start in your thinking, and you open your mind to faith, let's pray.

Dear God, thank You for this beautiful morning, for the sky that is so attractive with fluffy white clouds and the sun shining, but most of all for the eyes that I am looking at here, eyes that sparkle, eyes that have a tear of hope and love. I want to thank You oh God for Your presence, I can see You here, I see You in the personalities, radiant, sitting in this place. I can hear You laughing through their lives, and seeing through their voices. This is Your place God, You are here, I feel it, I see it, and thank You Jesus, especially for those who right now are saying, I'm going to become a Christian right now, save me Jesus. Amen.

ANTHEM - "Lord, You Have Been Our Dwelling Place"

Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Lord, You have been our dwelling place; You have been our dwelling place.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place before the mountains were born. Before the earth was created; You have been our dwelling place.

Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Bless Your people in the morning that they may sing for joy, they may sing, may sing for joy, they may sing for joy all of their days.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Lord, You have been our dwelling place; You have been our dwelling place.

May Your deeds be shown to Your people. Your splendor to their children. May the favor of God rest upon us. May the favor of God rest upon us. Rest upon us, O God. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home. Before the hills in order stood or earth received her frame, from everlasting, You are God, to endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. O be our Guide while life shall last and our eternal home. Amen, amen, amen!

**BENEDICTION - RHS**

RHS: And now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May you take something away that will never leave you. Amen.