

## Transcript\* - Pastor John Klundt - 12/28/2025

Good morning everybody. It's great to see you today. John, one of the pastors here at Broadway. And if you're with us for the first time as a guest, we're so grateful for you. And also, to those of you that are joining us online, we're grateful to have you with us as well today. So I want to draw your attention to one of the things that was mentioned in the video this morning, which is a class called cornerstone.

And I'm not going to just talk about that class, but this the first one I'm going to talk about. It's happening. January 11th. There's no sign up for it by the way, and it's going to be in the south lobby. Again, January 11th at 930. So, you could go to it before you come to this service.

If you want to. Just giving you some thoughts, about that. But you could go, and attend. The class is going to be a class. Lloyd Sharp is the teacher, and it's going to be on the Bible. And, how we can trust in Scripture and how Scripture was formed and some other, really important parts.

It's only four weeks, by the way. So it's going to go by, real, real quickly. And the reason I bring that up and I'm going to talk about some other things that are happening, too, is because we just think about it just for just a moment with me. We live in a world today that just really is marked by a just, a lot of anger.

Confusion, divisiveness really in every way. And I just want to say to you that in, in saying all of that in this world, that when you come here, one of the things that I want you to have great confidence in is that we are going to stay committed to teaching Scripture and committed to teaching the Word of God.

But I say that. But that means you. You also have to get into the Bible like we have to read it and open it up and understand it. And we're going to be committed to teaching the truth. And, and we're going to be committed to standing firm in the word of God. And and we want we want to do that.

And I want to tell you how blessed we are at Broadway, because we've had, pastors here, long before myself who, Larry Winger, who was the first pastor here, and John Abbot, who laid a great foundation of teaching the word of God, week in and week out and month in and month out and year in and year out.

And there's a foundation that it was built upon, so that when you come here on Sunday, you know that you're going to hear the Word of God. And you know, you're going to hear truth. And that's that's really important to have that confidence. Because in our culture today, not only are we marked by divisiveness and anger and confusion, but we're just a part of what Scripture, let us know a long time ago because Scripture really reads into this word, which is there itching ears are going to, hear what they want to hear and to hear the word of God and to teach.

It means there's going to be times when we don't want to hear it. We're not going to want to listen to it. We're not going to want to be obedient to it, but we're going to stay firm in in the word of God. And that means like, hey, be on Sunday. By the way, I googled it. There were 52 Sundays in the year 2025.

I don't know if you knew that or not, but it's. But it's true. I googled it, so I just wanted to confirm it. Which means we had 52 Sundays where we showed up and we worship and we and we and we open up the word of God. But but that's not that's not nearly enough to know the Word of God.

Like we have to be in it. So there's classes like cornerstone, but also last year, one of the things I'm really grateful for was that, pastor Jay led and getting developed the rooted series and all that was a part of that. And it was such so good. And we're starting again that. And if you if you really haven't connected here at Broadway, if you haven't, like joined a group yet or been involved in a Bible study or really just don't know a whole lot of people, I just want to say to you, the Roots group is a great place for you to start again, only only ten weeks.

So it's not like a a commitment for the rest of your life. It's just a short term commitment. But it really helps, develop relationships. But it also is rooted in the Word of God itself. And that is so important. Again, we live in a world that is not gentle. It is fractured. It's splintered. It's not safe. It confuses, it depresses.

It's just in, created in every way to distract us. Which means church, that we as a church here at Broadway Christian Church, we have to we have to love, in the most unconditional way, the people around us. And we have to teach the word of God unapologetically. And we have to say to the world around us, we are not ashamed of the gospel, the good news of the gospel.

Paul encouraged us in Romans. He says, listen, we if he says, for I am not ashamed of the gospel. And that is so important for us, I would say, I would suggest to you that how your year 2025 went really had everything to do with the time that you spent in the word and learning the Word of God and letting the Word of God form you in every possible way.

And so we want to see that happen in this year. Our confidence, listen, our confidence for us as as followers of Jesus is not in our opinions. It's not in methods. It's not in preferences. Our confidence is in the resurrected Jesus Christ Church. That's where our confidence comes from. And so we have great confidence in in the Word of God, this this right here, we have incredible confidence and we know that it is true.

We know that it is useful. We know that it is incredibly beneficial for each and every one of us. But it cannot be that way if we are not in the Word of God and we have a multitude of ministries here at Broadway Christian Church that are going to be kicking off in the next couple of weeks from, women's studies to men's studies to life groups to just a variety of other Bible studies that are going to be unfolding.

And my encouragement to you is get in a study, get in, get in relationships with other people where the Bible is being open and the Word of God is being opened up to you, and you're being exposed to the Word of God and letting it change you and inform the truths that you believe in, in every possible way, and that that is our commitment to you going forward in the year 2026, is that you can have confidence that we're going to continue to teach the Word of God.

Amen. So wait, wait, I say that to you because also part of our commitment is making sure that we continue to pass on our, our, our belief to our, our children. And there's a lot of you in this room. You don't only have just children, you have a grandchildren, you have great grandchildren, some of you have great some of you are triple greats.

And you, you want for them what we want for all the, the kids and the students that are part of this church is we want them to love the Lord and know the Lord and know his truth, and stay with the Lord for their entire life in every way. We want that for them. And we want to pass on that legacy.

We want to make sure that the next generation is committed firmly to this, to this book and their life. We want to make sure that they believe that this is true and this is foundational, and this is the rock that they need to put their faith on and in every possible way. And one of the ways that we do that is we send our kids to camp because it's a great foundational principle in building their their faith and their understanding of who Jesus is.

And that gives them time in the word, but it also gets them away from the distractions of the world. But here's the thing camp is really expensive. We we send our kids to winter camp here from Broadway. We send them to summer camp. And if you have two, three, four kids, it's really expensive. And so we want to be a blessing to them and provide scholarships.

And so we've asked, as the year is wrapping up, if you would give above and beyond, to our youth scholarships so our kids can go to camp, we want to see more kids go to camp this year than last year. And the way that we can do that the best is by offering them resources so that if a if a parent wants to send their kid or their student to camp, they have all the resources that they need to say, we can help you with that, and we want to bless them with that for sure.

So if you would, help with that, I would greatly appreciate it. Having said all of that, this morning, we're going to talk about, hard topic because it's hard for me because it deals with two things obedience and surrender. Now, if you're if you're anything like me, you you struggle with this like I do. But we're going to look at a text today.

If you would open up your Bibles to Romans chapter 12, verse one. We're going to look at a text today that gives us some insight about how obedience and surrender should really be just something that we respond to because of of what God has done for us. So Paul, who is the author of the letter of Romans to the Roman Church, he he writes to them.

And it's such a powerful, just teaching and theology and doctrine about how, God has worked in the lives of people and kind of how everything began and how he sent Jesus and what Jesus has done and what that means for us today. And now in chapter 12, after he said all that, he's like, hey, in light of that, here's here's what I'm going to encourage you with today.

And so in Romans chapter 12, verse one, listen to what he says. He says, I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship or your spiritual act of worship. And so that word appeal also in other translations that you might read, it might say the word urge, like there's this urging.

So he's appealing to the people. He has a relationship with them. And he's he's saying to them, listen, I need you to listen to this. This is something personal where he might literally get in front of their face and make eye contact with them and say, hey, I have something I need to say to you, and I need you to hear what I'm saying to you.

I need you to listen. And there's a sense of not just so. It's as a personal, personal thing that he's saying to them, but he's also saying, hey, if you don't hear this and if you don't listen to this, this might have some long term consequences that come from you not listening and and really leaning into what this principle is.

And also there's this sense of urgency. And I know in our culture today, like we hear truth and we we might agree with the truth, but that doesn't mean we're going to do it. We might go, well, yeah, I, I don't have any problem with what you're saying. I listen to that. But at the same time, I'm just I just don't know if I'm ready to do it like I.

And our thinking is, well, I'll do it sometime. Like, I'll do it. I'll do it down the road. I'll do it. I'll do it when it's convenient for me, when I feel like, hey, I've, I've exhausted all of my other, wants and desires and I'll now I'll listen to what that to what that truth is because we don't necessarily disagree with it.

We just want what we just don't want to do it. And so we saying, hey, there's this urgency to to lean into what he's saying and actually act on it and start to do to do this. So he's like, I appeal to you, I need you to listen to me. And then he starts to say, by the mercies of God, now, listen, this is this is very interesting because he doesn't say often what we think are like how God interacts with us and how God comes at us.

We often think that it's God's being like mean or he's being angry or judgmental or revengeful to us. He's not saying, hey, by, by, by the by the anger of God or by by God. Being judgmental towards you, you know, he's saying by the mercies of God, like I'm appealing to you because of what God has done for you through Jesus.

I'm I'm appealing to you because of the love that God has for you, because of the grace that God has for you, because of the mercy that he has lavished on you, on each and every one of us. That's the appeal that he is making. That's that's what he's saying. Hey, this is this is the relationship that you have with God.

And this is what God has done for you. And this is what I want you to understand. Is this the response to all of the everything that I've just said is that by the mercies of God, now do this. And he says, here's what I want you to do. I want you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

I want you to offer them up on the altar. You see, in our world, the idea of sacrifice is maybe a little bit foreign, but in the culture where Paul was writing, sacrifice would have been just something that was

very familiar to them. And they had a system of sacrifice, and they had a reason for sacrifice, how they would, have sacrifice for, for, for the sin and to push the sin back and, and to deal with the sin problem that they had and, and to deal with that.

But in, in our world today, we don't we don't necessarily have that. So we saying, hey, offer your bodies as a, as a spiritual sacrifice. We're like, well, what is that? What does that mean? And what he's saying is, when you and I get up in the morning and we think about the day that's before us, we we lay all of it, all of our of our thoughts, all of our of our words, all of our actions, everything that we're going to do, we lay them on the altar and we we offer our day to the Lord.

Listen to the listen to the things that we need to to be giving to the Lord. We need to give our decisions. So when we begin the day, Lord, you, you have all my decisions. Now if if you're thinking like me today, that that's very scary to say. God, I'm going to do what you want me to do today.

I'm going to I'm going to I'm going to submit to you. I'm going to I'm going to be obedient to you today. Lord, you have all my decisions. You have you have every, every single one of them. You, Lord, I'm going to give my relationships to you. I'm going to lay them on the altar. As my day begins today, I'm going to lay my future.

I'm going to lay my finances. I'm going to lay my schedule on the altar. Here's a big one. I'm going to lay my entertainment on the altar as well. I'm going to give all of it to you. My offense and my bitterness. I'm going to give it to you. My right to be offended. It seems like in our culture today, everybody just gets offended by the simplest of things that are said or done in every way.

My worries, my fears, my anxieties. We lay them on the altar. That thing that you were hoping that I wouldn't mention? Yes, that thing to you. Lay them on the altar as well. Like all. All of it. You. You and I, we get up and we say, Lord, I'm going to. I'm going to offer this to you. You have you have all of me.

Think about that. What that would mean for us, like how scary that might begin to be because that would really begin to to make some changes. And the things that we do and the things that we say and the places that we go, like it would begin to really be transformational and in every possible way. It would really have this sense of like, hey, things are things are not going to be the way they are.

And that's where that's where the rub comes, because we think, well, I, I'm not ready for that. I'm just like, I'm not sure I want to, I want to go down that road I like I like the things that I do, and I like the

things that I say, and I like the places that I go. And I don't know if God likes them, but I like them.

And we submit ourselves as a spiritual act of worship to the Lord. We get so stuck on this idea of worship being so fixated only on Sunday morning. The church worship is something that we do every day. Amen. We worship the Lord in the way that we live our lives. And he's like, hey, I want you to bring that same attitude that you bring to the one hour of worship on Sunday.

I want you to bring into every minute, hour, and day of your life, and I want you to begin to offer yourselves as a spiritual act of worship. And then in Romans chapter two, he says this do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by the testing you may discern what is the will of God and what is good and acceptable and perfect.

So the first thing he says is, do not, do not be conformed. Another way of looking at it was like would be like, do not be, do not be molded. Do not be squeezed by the world. He's like, hey, just so you know, you're our this is already happening to you. The world is already having its formation. It's already forming.

You. It's already molding you. It's already squeezing you. He's saying, no, that's not going to happen any longer. The world cannot be what forms you. It cannot be what drives you. It cannot be what dictates your your decisions and your choices and the way that you live your life. There has to be a new way of of thinking and a new formation in regards to that.

So this idea that this word that we hear oftentimes now, which is called spiritual formation, all that it really is, is this, this idea of something is going to form you. How about you allow Scripture and truth to form you and to get into the Word of God and allow the Word of God to form the the way that you live and the choices that you make, like this is how you begin to do that.

And again, in order to do that, in order for this to be the the dominant formation in your life, you have to know it. You have to spend time in it, you and you have to begin to be obedient and surrender to it, which again is really hard and difficult. And he's saying, but we're not going to let the world form us anymore.

And the way that we're not going to let the world form us anymore is we're going to begin to be have a renewal in and the way that we think and the and the fact that our mind is going to be changed, what we

can we can really believe some incredible we can tell ourselves some lies that become incredibly convincing.

I don't know if you know this or not, but studies have been done that the average person can sink up to 30,000 thoughts in a day. Now, if you're if you're like me, I'm thinking I, I thought maybe of ten things, but 30,000. But what happens in your thinking and your thinking becomes so, ingrained and repetitive and in your head that we can think things without really thinking them because they get repeated over and over and over again that we just begin to believe them and they become a part of our formation and the things that we do and and we tell ourselves lies simply things like this, like it's it's, it's not

okay for me to be sad. And we can, we can tell ourself that and maybe, maybe that we were formed that way when we were younger and we were told, hey, like, we don't we don't act that way and we don't let people see us being weak. So whenever you're around people, you make sure you put a smile on your face.

And when people talk to you, you just talk about all the good things that are happening in your life. And you don't say anything that's hard or difficult or that's making you sad or making you. I mean, you just you just really put on a front and again, think about what that does. It isolates us. And whenever I will say to you, church, whenever Satan can isolate us and make us think that we can't talk to people and share the hard things that are going on in our life and the things that we need help with, which is another lie we tell ourselves like a we don't ask for help.

And maybe, maybe that's something that you've, thought or that you, you think all the time, like, hey, I might I might need help, and I might have some people around me who are really wise. And I got some family that love about love me and care about me and want the best for me. But the last thing that I'm going to do is ask for help.

Because if I ask for help again, that shows my weakness and I don't want to show my weakness to anybody. So I'm just going to keep, all the things that I need help with to myself. And I'm just going to stay in the same condition that I've been in for the longest time. Again, that's how Satan begins to isolate us.

And we just we repeat these things like, oh, I can't ask for help. And if I do ask for help, then people are going to think that I don't have it all together. Here's here's the truth. You don't. Here's another truth. They know you don't. Here's a here's the thing that Satan wants you to think, yeah, but the minute you say it, then you might have to make changes and that and that is true.

There needs to be a new way of offering yourself up as a living sacrifice and a new a new idea that I'm not going to let the world form me and mold me and squeeze me anymore. I'm going to be changed. And science is now catching. It's. I just love that science is catching up to God. And neuroscience is telling us that literally, that you can literally have a renewed mind, but it doesn't happen accidentally.

It doesn't happen by just like, well, I just kind of hope my mind begins to change. And I don't like the way my mind works. And I want my mind to be different. You actually have to work at it. And again, I'm going to say to you that one of the best foundational pieces that you can go to for a transformational mind is to the Word of God itself.

It will help you begin to to actually have a different molding and a different forming and a different squeezing and a this is the difference is this is actually true. This is actually something you can depend on. This is something that's actually beneficial for you. And so it begins to say to you and to me like hey this can happen.

So we get up in the morning and we pray to the Lord and we say, Lord, I want to give my day to you, and I'm going to give the hard things to you, and I'm going to begin to say, Lord, thank you for this day. And you know, the more thankful that we are, this is really not self-help, but this is this is actual how it can work is you begin to say, I'm thankful for this, and I'm I'm grateful for that.

And Lord, I'm so blessed beyond measure. And you begin to say that and guess what happens? Your mind begins to be renewed and it begins to change. And you start to have a great outlook on life. Like things can actually change for you, but it's not going to happen just by you going, man, I just hope things get better.

It doesn't work that way. And he says, hey, so you you do it and the mind becomes renewed and the formation begins to change and your life is starting to look so much differently than what it used to. And then he says, this is this is how you know the will of God. And the will of God in every way is good and acceptable, and it's perfect for you.

Think about that for just a moment, that God's will is good and it's acceptable and it's perfect for you. And then the next question becomes, what is the will of God for my life? That's the great question. And here's here's part of the answer. You can't know that unless your mind is being renewed, and the renewing of the mind will help us to understand God's will, because throughout our life, throughout our life, seasons, seasons change.

Things come and go. But the will of God for your life can be known. As long as we are allowing ourselves to be living sacrifices, as long as we are giving our days to the Lord and saying, Lord, this day is yours, because this is, I want to worship you day to day through all that I am and everything that I have, I want to give it to you.

Lord. And I know it's not going to be easy, and I know it's not going to be simple, but I'm going to do it. I'm going to give it to you, and I'm going to begin to have a different outlook on life, and I'm going to make different choices, and I'm going to go different places. And, and the world is not going to for me and it's not going to mold me.

I'm not going to allow that to happen anymore. It's going to be a better year for me than the year before. And my guess is your year before. I had a lot to do. A lot of it depended on how obedient and how how much you surrendered to the Lord in 2025. And the same thing will happen for 2026.

And you want a great year. Be obedient and surrender to the Lord and start living out his will. I think. I think the will of God, even though it's different in different stages. And maybe you're asking for some real specifics about does God want you to do this or do that? But I believe for all of us, in every way that he wants us to be people who are unapologetically living our faith out for him each and every day.

That he that we need to be people who are proclaiming the good news of the gospel to the people around us that were living it out in such a way that that they see the way that we're living. And there's something that draws them to us, not because of what we've done, but because of what God has done through His Son Jesus in our life.

And there's a change in a transformation that is happening. And because of that, they're attracted to that. And they want to know, how did you get that? And we can say, it's not me. It's what Jesus did in me. It's the good news of the gospel. It's the death and it's the burial and it's the resurrection, and it's me spending time in the Word of God and trusting in the Word of God.

It's all of that together. It's me being a part of a church and having a church family where we study the Word of God and we get into the into the Bible, and we know what the Word of God says and the way that it wants us to live our lives. Like all of that begins to have transformational change in every possible way.

**And so what changes will you make and what choices will you make? And Paul says, I appeal to you based on the mercies of God, to offer yourselves as a living sacrifice. That is your spiritual act of worship. Don't be conformed, but you have a renewed of the mind, and then you will know the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.**

**Let's pray. Father, we thank you for our time together today. We thank you for this church and the commitment that we have to your Word and what that means for us today. Father, may we grow in your in your truth this year. Maybe grow in the knowledge of your truth and the understanding of your truth, father, but may we, father, live as spiritual, spiritual sacrifice, father, that we give our life to you, that we worship you through everything that we do, every choice that we make.**

**Now that we thank you for your word and we pray this in Jesus name, Amen.**

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