

MINING THE MESSAGE



<i>Title</i>	Before The Doing “A Gospel Informed Order”
<i>Scripture</i>	Selected Scriptures
<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Ben Arant, Director of Creative Arts</i>
<i>Speaker</i>	The Christian life isn’t primarily about doing more for Jesus. It’s a recognition of what Jesus has already done for us, who we are because of it, and a dependence upon His grace to produce its fruit through us as we live on mission for Him.

OUTLINE

1. Before we do...We belong.

Belonging Before Doing

- a. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. How does remembering that our salvation is entirely God's work change the way we approach our daily obedience and service?

The Family of God

- b. Read Ephesians 2:19-22. Where are you most tempted to measure your worth by what you do, and how would living from your identity as someone who already belongs to God's family change that?

2. Before we love...We are loved.

God's Love Comes First

- a. Read 1 John 4:9-10. What does this passage reveal about who initiated our relationship with God, and why does that order matter?

Love as the Fruit

- b. How might remembering that you are already loved by God change the way you respond to someone who is difficult for you to love?

3. Before we build...We are being built.

Christ Builds His Church

- a. Read Matthew 16:15-18. What does Jesus' statement, “I will build my church,” teach us about who ultimately carries the responsibility and authority for building His church?

Being Built by Christ

- b. Read Philippians 1:6. Where do you need to trust Christ's work in you rather than relying on your own effort to produce spiritual growth?

4. Before we give...We have received.

Everything Comes From the Giver

- a. Read Galatians 2:19-20. How does remembering what Christ has already given us reshape the way we think about giving our time, talents, and resources?

The Heart Behind Our Giving

- b. Ben warned that giving can become another way of saying, “I give, therefore I am.” What motivation behind your own giving or serving do you need to examine before the Lord?

5. Before we go...We have been sent.

Peace Before Mission

- a. Read John 20:19-21. What did Jesus give the disciples before He sent them, and how does that order shape the way we should approach living on mission?

Sent as God's People

- b. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. Who is one person or relationship where you need to remember that you are not trying to prove yourself or earn God's favor, but are simply living as someone Christ has already sent?

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Accountability Worksheet

1. Where are you currently tempted to believe, “I do, therefore I am,” instead of resting in what Christ has already done and who He has made you to be?
2. What is one area of obedience where you need to stop striving for God's approval and start responding to the grace you have already received?
3. Is there an area of your life where pride, insecurity, people-pleasing, or fear is affecting the way you serve, give, love, or lead? What needs to change?
4. Who has God placed in your life that you need to intentionally love, serve, or share the gospel with as someone who has already been sent by Christ?