# Do the Work

**It's Time to Finish #2 - Pastor Gary Combs - November 8, 2026 - Zechariah 6:9-15**

**INTRO**: Good morning church! **Wasn't Shakira's testimony wonderful?** I love hearing stories like hers! Think about it. She saw an invitation to our KidzFest on Facebook and decided to bring her kids. She was just looking for something for her children to enjoy. But God had something much greater in mind! Because when she came, she experienced a loving church family, heard the good news of Jesus Christ, and her life began to change!

**Church, that's why we do what we do!** That's why we **serve**, why we **give**, why we **invite** people, and why we're working to engage our community, so that more people hear the gospel of Jesus!

**Last Sunday,** Robin and I reminded you of our It's Time Generosity Initiative. We're at the midpoint of this three-year spiritual journey of seeking God together and asking Him what He wants to do in us and through us.

**Not equal gifts, but equal willingness to seek God and obey what He wants to do in us and through us.**

**Let me remind you of Your Next Steps…**



**#1 - PICK IT UP.** After the service, stop by the IT'S TIME table in the lobby and get your Journey Guide [HOLD UP JOURNEY GUIDE.] and gifts, including your T-shirt, wristband, pen, and bookmark.

**#2 - PUT IT UP.** You'll find a Commitment Card in your bulletin. [HOLD UP COMMITMENT CARD.] Take it home and put it somewhere you'll see it every day. Let it be a daily reminder to seek the Lord.

**#3 - PRAY IT THROUGH.** Don't fill out your card today. We're asking you to pray over it. Read the 21-day devotional, talk together as a family, and keep asking, "God, what do You want to do in me and through me?"

**#4 - PREPARE TO COMMIT.** After you've spent time seeking the Lord, be ready to bring your completed Commitment Card back next **Sunday, November 15.** Some of you will affirm or increase your original commitment. Others will make a first-time commitment.

Then, on **November 22nd, we'll celebrate** together what God has done!

Trans: Thinking about Shakira's testimony again… Do we want to be a church that just sits around and hopes people find us? Or do we want to invest our resources into where people already are? How far should we go in joining the Father in his pursuit of the lost? Do we think it was worth it that we spent resources on Facebook ads for KidzFest that caught Shakira's attention and ultimately led to her and her family hearing the gospel and becoming part of our church family?

YES! We believe God is calling us to say IT'S TIME to BE STRONG. DO THE WORK. And to BE FEARLESS!

Need: But whenever God calls His people to do something significant, there are always questions like…

Does God really want to use someone like me? What difference could my contribution make? What if I don't have much to give? What if I don't know what part I'm supposed to play?

Some of us may be excited about what God is doing, but we're not sure what He wants us to do. Others may feel that what we have to offer isn't enough to make a difference. And still others may be willing to help, but we've been so busy with our own lives that we haven't really stopped to ask God what He wants from us.

But here's something I want you to consider today: What if God has entrusted something to you that He intends to use to change someone else's life? Maybe it's your time. Maybe it's your abilities. Maybe it's your financial resources. Maybe it's an invitation to someone who needs Jesus.

We may never know this side of heaven how God uses our faithful participation to change someone's eternity!

Trans: Today, we're continuing our series **It's Time to Finish** with a message entitled **"Do the Work."** We're returning to the book of Zechariah, where God's people had been called to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. They had faced opposition, discouragement, and delay. Yet God had not abandoned His work or His people.

**Last week,** we learned that they could be strong because God's Spirit would empower them. But now the LORD gives Zechariah a remarkable prophetic message about the coming Messiah, who would build something even greater than the temple in Jerusalem. And He calls His people to participate in His work.

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**BODY**: In Zechariah 6:9–15, the LORD instructed the prophet to crown Joshua the high priest as a prophetic sign of the coming Messiah, the Branch, who would unite the offices of priest and king and build the temple of the LORD, while calling His people to participate in His work through faithful obedience. We can faithfully participate in the work Christ is doing to build His Church. How can we faithfully participate in the work Christ is doing to build His Church? The text gives us **three ways** we can participate in Christ's work of building His Church.

Read text: Zechariah 6:9-15 (ESV) 9 And the word of the LORD came to me: 10 "Take from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon, and go the same day to the house of Josiah, the son of Zephaniah. 11 Take from them silver and gold, and make a crown, and set it on the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 12 And say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. 13 It is he who shall build the temple of the Lord and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."' 14 And the crown shall be in the temple of the LORD as a reminder to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 "And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God."

## WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN CHRIST'S WORK OF BUILDING THE CHURCH…

### 1. By generously giving from what God has entrusted.

EXP: (9-11) "Take from the exiles" (10) — They had apparently recently arrived from Babylon, bringing silver and gold. These were among the Jewish exiles who had remained in Babylon after the first return under Cyrus. Notice that God knew these men by name! They weren't kings or prophets. They were ordinary people who had brought their resources to participate in God's work.

Yet God instructed Zechariah to make a crown from their gifts and place it on the head of Joshua the high priest. This was highly unusual! Joshua was a priest, not a king. He wore a priestly turban, not a royal crown. But God was using their gifts to create a prophetic symbol pointing to the coming Messiah, who would be both Priest and King.

"**Word of the LORD**" (9) (דְּבַר־יְהוָה, *dāḇār yᵉhōvâ*) - speech, word,. Denotes a prophetic word from God. This word follows the 8th and final night vision (vv.1-8) of the four chariots.

"**Exiles**" (10) (גּוֹלָה, *gôlâ*) - exiles, captivity. "Heldai, of Tobijah, and Jedaiah – J. Vernon McGee gives their meanings as "robust," "God's goodness," and "God knows."

"**Josiah**" (10) - Meaning "God sustains.""A goldsmith..[or] he was treasurer for the temple…" *— Matthew Poole*

"**Take from their silver and gold**" (11) - "Take, gold and silver, of those that are come out of Babylon lately, to make their oblation to the Lord." *— Matthew Poole*

"**Crown**" (11, 14) (עֲטָרָה, *ăṭārâ*) - crown, wreath

"**Joshua**" (11) (יְהוֹשׁוּעַ, *yᵉhôšûa*) - "the LORD saves." the high priest, one of the anointed ones of ch. 4.

"**The son of Jehozadak, the high priest**" (11) - In the Aaronic line, many generations later.

ARG: **God cares more about our attitude than the amount. After all, it's His grace that enables us to give.**

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (ESV) 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

ILL: **Jesus watched the people making offerings** (Mark 12:41–44). Jesus watched wealthy worshipers putting large sums into the temple treasury. Then an impoverished widow gave two small copper coins. Her gift would have been almost invisible compared to the others. Yet Jesus called His disciples together and commended her generosity because she gave out of her poverty. Jesus is watching. He knows your name.



APP: **What has God entrusted to you?** We may not all have the same resources, but all of us can respond faithfully with whatever God has given. That's why we're asking every household to prayerfully participate in the It's Time spiritual journey.

As you look at the **Generosity Ladder** in your bulletin, ask God what step of generosity He wants you to take. What has God placed in your hands that He wants to use for His glory?



## 2. By confidently trusting in what God has promised.

EXP: (12-13) "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch" (12) Here Zechariah announces the coming Messiah. The title "Branch" appears in other prophetic passages, where it describes the promised Davidic King.

Joshua is being crowned as a prophetic symbol, but the Branch is neither Joshua nor Zerubbabel. He is the coming Messiah, Jesus. But this prophecy reaches beyond that building to the greater work of the Messiah. Christ would build His Church, composed of people redeemed by His blood and indwelt by His Spirit.

"**Behold the man**" (12) - Same as Pilate's words of Jesus (John 19:5). Consider the contrast:

- Zechariah: "Behold, the man!" — The promised Messiah, who would wear a royal crown, reign as King and Priest, and build the temple of the LORD.
- Pilate: "Behold the man!" — Jesus, wearing a crown of thorns and a purple robe, mocked as a king and presented to the crowd before His crucifixion.

And there is an even greater irony: In John 19:14, Pilate unwittingly declares "Behold your King!"

"**Branch**" (12) - This is a rich biblical image for Messiah found in 6 passages: Isa. 4:2, 11:1; Jer. 23:5-6, 33:14-16; and Zech. 3:8, 6:12-13.



"**He shall branch out from his place**" (12) (צָמַח, *ṣāmaḥ*) - to sprout, grow up. He will go forth and accomplish God's purposes. The wordplay emphasizes the growth of God's promised ruler.

"**He shall build the temple**" (12, 2x) (בָּנָה, *bānâ*) - to build, establish. The repetition in verses 12–13 is emphatic: the Branch Himself will accomplish the building of the LORD's temple. The physical temple is rebuilt under Zerubabbel and Joshua, but it points beyond itself to the Church founded by Jesus.

"**He … shall bear royal honor**" (13) (הוֹד, *hôḏ*) - splendour, majesty. "Joshua [is] a remarkable shadowing forth of Messiah.' It is not for his own sake that the crown is placed on him, but as type of Messiah about to be at once king and priest." — *Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary*

"**Shall sit and rule**" (13) (מָשַׁל, *māšal*) - to rule, have dominion, reign.

"**Priest on his throne**" (13) (כִּסֵּא, *kissēʾ*) - seat (of honor), throne. The striking feature is the association of priesthood with the throne: the coming Messiah will unite royal dominion and priestly ministry.

"**Counsel of peace**" (13) (עֵצָה, *ʿēṣâ*) - counsel, advice, purpose of (*shalom*).

"**Between them both**" (13) - Present application being Zerubbabel and Joshua, working together in peace. The future application being the kingly and priestly offices, united harmoniously in the Messiah.

ARG: **Jesus promises to build His unstoppable church:**

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) … I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

**We are God's Temple built upon Christ Jesus as cornerstone and a dwelling for the Spirit.**

Ephesians 2:19-22 (ESV) [19] So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

ILL: **We BE the Church.** Back in the 1990s we taught through the book of Ephesians and we made a poster that hung in our office that said: We are called to BE the church, relying on Christ to BUILD the church.

APP: We may make plans, organize ministries, and build facilities, but only Christ can change a human heart. We're not asking people to place their faith in a building plan, a budget, or even in our church leadership. We're asking everyone to place their confidence in Jesus Christ and what He has promised to do. The work may be bigger than us, but it is never bigger than the One who called us to it! So as you pray about your commitment, remember that your confidence is not in what you can accomplish. It is in what Christ can accomplish through us!

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## 3. By faithfully helping where God has directed.

EXP: (14-15) "And the crown shall be in the temple of the LORD as a reminder" (14). The crown was to be preserved as a memorial. The men who contributed, along with Josiah, would be remembered for their participation in God's work.

"And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD" (15). In its immediate context, this promise anticipates others coming from distant places to participate in rebuilding the temple. But in light of the messianic prophecy, it also anticipates the greater gathering of people from every nation into God's household through Christ.

"And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God" (15) — God's people were called to respond to His promises through faithful obedience.

"**As a reminder**" (14) (זִכָּרוֹן, *zikārôn*) - memorial, reminder, remembrance.

"**Those who are far off**" (15) (רָחוֹק, *rāḥôq*) - remote, far, distant, distant lands, distant ones.

"**Shall come and help**" (15) (בּוֹא, *bôʾ*) - to go in, enter, come, go, come in

"**You shall know**" (15) (יָדַע, *yāḏaʿ*) - to know, learn to know; to perceive. This is not merely intellectual knowledge, but recognition grounded in God's demonstrated faithfulness.

"**This shall come to pass**" (15) (הָיָה, *hāyâ*) - to be, become, come to pass, exist, happen, fall out. This will happen, but some may miss it in disobedience.

"**If you will diligently obey**" (15) (שָׁמַע, *šāmaʿ*) - to listen, give heed; to consent, agree; regard, obey. The emphasis is not merely hearing God's voice but responding faithfully to His revealed will.

ARG: **Speaking of the Gentiles, Paul spoke of them being far off, but brought near by Christ's blood.**

Ephesians 2:13 (ESV) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**Christ is the Head of His Church, His body, which grows as each part does its work.**

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV) 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

APP: What part is God calling you to play in the work He's doing here at Eastgate? For some, He's calling you to serve. For others, He's calling you to invite someone to hear the gospel. For others, He's calling you to take a new step of generosity. And for all of us, He's calling us to listen for His voice and faithfully obey.



Now, let me take a moment to explain how to complete the Commitment Card that's in your bulletin. There are two groups of people I'm speaking to today:

**First, those of you who made a commitment when we began this journey**. You'll notice the section on the left labeled EXISTING COMMITMENT.

You have two choices:

AFFIRM: If you believe God is calling you to continue fulfilling your original commitment, check AFFIRM and write in the amount you have remaining to give during the rest of the initiative.

INCREASE: Perhaps over this past year and a half, God has blessed you or challenged you to take another step of faith. If you feel led to give more, check INCREASE and write in the additional amount you intend to give beyond your original commitment.

**Second, those of you who haven't made a commitment yet.** Maybe you've come to Eastgate since we launched this journey. Or perhaps you were here but weren't ready to participate before. You'll notice the section on the right labeled NEW COMMITMENT.

MONTHLY: You can indicate the amount you feel led to give each month over the next 18 months, beginning November 22.

OTHER: Or perhaps God has enabled you to make a one-time lump-sum gift during this remaining period. You can indicate that amount here.

Then complete your contact information and the MY TOTAL COMMITMENT section at the bottom, indicating the total you intend to give during the remaining 18 months.

And notice what it says at the bottom: "This is a statement of intent, not a binding contract. It may be increased or decreased as circumstances change." This is a faith commitment. We're depending on God to supply our ability to give over and above our normal giving.

But please don't fill out your card right now!

We're asking you to take it home, put it somewhere visible, and pray over it this week. Talk about it with your family. Read your Journey Guide. And keep asking, "God, what do You want to do in me and through me?"

**Then next Sunday, November 15,** we'll bring our completed Commitment Cards together as an expression of our faith and obedience to the Lord. And on the Sunday, November 22nd, we'll announce the total commitment and celebrate what God has done!

**CONCLUSION**: As we close today, I want you to remember the three men who brought their silver and gold from Babylon. They were ordinary men. We know very little about their lives. But God knew their names. He knew what they brought. And He used their gifts to make a crown that pointed to the coming Messiah. They were participating in something far greater than they could have imagined!

And isn't that what we're seeing here at Eastgate? Someone gave. Someone served. Someone invited. And God used it all to bring new people into a community where they could hear the gospel and experience the love of Jesus Christ!

That's what we're inviting you to be part of! We don't know all the people God will bring to Eastgate in the years ahead. We don't know all the lives that will be changed, the marriages that will be restored, or the children who will grow up knowing Jesus.

**But we know the One who is building His Church!**

And that brings us back to the crown placed on Joshua's head. Joshua was a priest, but the crown pointed to Someone greater. It pointed to Jesus Christ, our great High Priest and King!

Yet when Jesus came, the first crown they placed upon His head wasn't made of gold. It was made of thorns.

They mocked Him as King and nailed Him to a cross. But what looked like defeat was actually God's plan of redemption! Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. And now He reigns as our risen Lord and King!

He is the One who builds His Church. And He begins by saving sinners and making them His own.

You see, we don't do the work to earn our salvation. We do the work because we've been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ!

So today, if you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, that's the most important response you can make. Come to Him in repentance and faith. Receive the forgiveness and new life that only He can give.

And if you already belong to Christ, I want to challenge you to spend this next week seeking Him.

Not because we're trying to build something great for ourselves, but because we have a great Savior who is building His Church! And He's inviting us to participate in His work.

Church, let's be strong. Let's trust our King. And let's DO THE WORK!

Let's pray.