

Founding & Senior Pastor: Dr. David Anderson  
 Bridgeway Community Church  
 Series: “DEBT-FREE”  
 April 7, 2024

**DEBT-FREE:**  
**“Flourish” (Paid-Off Party)**

I. INTRODUCTION

Praise the Lord Bridgeway!

Today is the day we are praising God because the mortgage on our building here in Columbia Maryland is paid in full!

It’s paid off! A 30-year mortgage paid off in 15 years! Today I wanted us to solidify this in a mortgage-burning ceremony. However, due to possible fire issues, let’s call it a MORTGAGE SHREDDING ceremony! 😊

- **FACTS:** In 2017 we had almost \$10M in debt.
  - \$6.8M for Columbia & \$3.3M for Owings Mills - that’s about \$10M (\$9.8M to be exact)
  - This year, on February 23, 2024, at 12:19 pm we paid off Columbia’s mortgage of nearly \$7M! Gone!
  - What is our next “Debt-free” goal? (OMR @ \$2M)

And we did this while still continuing to...

- Feed the hungry
- Bless those in need of community and connection
- Do even more ministry than we have ever done, not only in our community but around the world!

It’s through people like you here in Columbia, in Owings-Mills/Reisterstown, or at home that have been generously giving that we have been able to be debt-free, by God’s grace!

And I believe that wherever you are on your financial journey...

- Whether you're a younger person trying to strategize how to best budget and your money
- Whether you're an older person with a mortgage or outstanding health bills

I believe God can and will show up when you honor him with the first fruits of your wealth and resources – he is the owner of it all! And as you invest your resources in his kingdom and kingdom purposes, I believe he will continue to multiply it.

Before we shred this thing, I want to do *a few short interviews* that will help you understand how we got to this point. When we thought about it, it really came down to three things...

1. **Strategy,**
2. **Systems**
3. **Spirit**

To begin I would like to call Tim Samuel, our CPA & CFO, to the stage...

## II. INTERVIEWS

### 1. **STRATEGY**

- a. Tim Samuel, CFO

### 2. **SYSTEMS**

- a. Frank Eastham, COO

### 3. **SPIRIT**

- a. Elder Marvin Beard

## III. SHREDDING CEREMONY

I would like to invite all the Elder's Council, the Clergy Council, and Chiefs (& LadyAmber @ 11am) for a ceremonial time of SHREDDING...

- Elder Don Rajala, please say a prayer and then we will SHRED IT!
- This time of shredding is a visual of all the debt you have too!

#### IV. SERMON

From our church house to your house, the *possibility and expectancy* of debt freedom is being declared, passed down, and released from the spiritual head of this house to every household under the covering of Bridgeway.

God told the prophet Haggai in the Old Testament this?

- “*‘Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,’ Says the Lord.*” (**Haggai 1:8 NIV84**)
- And after they did this, the Lord Almighty declared, “*From this day on I will bless you.*” (**Haggai 2:19 NIV84**)

When we take care of the house of the Lord God takes pleasure and is honored.

When we take care of God’s house, He will take care of ours.

We can truly say about Bridgeway Columbia, “*Debt no more in 2024!*”

God put a phrase in my spirit clearly a couple of weeks ago and he wants me to say it to you...

“DEBT-FREE IS YOUR DESTINY!”

#### Declaration:

**We are releasing this debt-free expectancy over all who are under our covering**

I want to leave you with a word that I think will bless you from **Psalm 92**.

There is one word that I believe you can hold on to today.

You may have to hold on to this word by faith, but remember that...

- “*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” (**Hebrews 11:1 NIV84**)

#### Here is the word:

**FLOURISH**

*Can you say that word “flourish” with me? FLOURISH!*

One of my good brothers in the Lord sent me some verses several weeks ago from Psalm 92.

These verses are exactly the season that I believe Bridgeway is in right now. Let’s pick it up in **verse 5...**

- *5 How great are your works, O Lord, how profound your thoughts! 6 The senseless man does not know, fools do not understand, 7 that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers FLOURISH, they will be forever destroyed. (Psalm 92:5-7 NIV84)*

Friends, do you ever wonder why the wicked “flourish”?

The text says that evildoers “flourish.” Huh?

I ask, “Lord, why would you allow this wicked man or these wicked people to flourish?”

But then, I am reminded that in the New Testament it says that...

- *“He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:45 NIV84)*

### **A Word:**

**For those of you who are worried because there are people in your world who don’t want to honor God with their lives, their finances, their workflow on the job, whatever, and they are still seemingly “flourishing”... just know that it’s okay.**

It is only TEMPORARY!

Look at Psalm 92 again, but this time, let’s pick it up at **verses 8 and 9...**

- *8 “But you, O Lord, are exalted FOREVER. 9 Surely your enemies, O Lord, surely your enemies will PERISH; all evildoers will be scattered.” (Psalm 92:8-9 NIV84)*

Evildoers FLOURISH now, but they will PERISH later. It’s Temporary!

**HUMAN FLOURISHING IS GOOD, BUT HEAVENLY FLOURISHING IS BETTER!**

Human flourishing is temporary, but heavenly flourishing is *eternal*!

**Question:**

**What does it say about the righteous?**

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS!

Check out **verses 12-13**...

- 12 *"The righteous will FLOURISH like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; 13 PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, they will FLOURISH in the courts of our God."* (Psalm 92:12-13 NIV84)

**Question:**

**DID YOU SEE THE PROMISE?**

When you are planted in the house of the Lord, *you will flourish*!

**Where?** *"In the courts of our God."*

HALLELUJAH!

**Main Point:**

**When you are planted in the house of the Lord, you will flourish in the courts of our God!**

That's why we have been preaching as our theme all year, COME HOME!

- There is FAVOR here.
- There is FLOURISHING here.
- And there is FRESHNESS here! (check out **verse 14**!)
  - *"They will still bear FRUIT in old age, they will stay FRESH and GREEN."* (Psalm 92:14 NIV84)

HALLELUJAH!

**Declaration:**

**You will still bear fruit and stay fresh in old age!**

*How many of you mature and seasoned believers receive that verse?*

Even when you are older, you can still be so “*Fresh and so green, green!*” 😊

Last year, we took 10% of our First Fruits offering and gave it to non-profit organizations in our area and around the world. This year, we decided to bless our partners — our international ministry partners and those in the house here at Columbia and at Owings-Mills/Reisterstown.

**STORY:** Our ministry partners in Cuna Maya, Mexico, run a school for young children in the area. And when I went to visit them a few months ago, we were talking to the leaders, and they shared that occasionally they are able to give their students a piece of fruit. They try to feed them every day, but they can’t always afford fruit, so it is kind of a treat. Now they weren’t asking for money, but someone asked, “How much would it cost for them to have fruit once a month... How about once a week... how about every day?” They calculated the number and it’s \$3,200 for the students to have a piece of fruit with lunch *every day*. We said, we can do that! And how cool that we are giving these kids fruit with money from our First Fruits Offering?!

V. **CONCLUSION**

I end by reviewing all the DECLARATIONS that have come out of today’s celebration sermon.  
(I invite the musicians to come out)

- 1. DEBT-FREE IS YOUR DESTINY**
- 2. A DEBT-FREE EXPECTANCY IS BEING RELEASED OVER ALL WHO ARE UNDER OUR COVERING**
- 3. WHEN YOU ARE PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, YOU WILL FLOURISH**
- 4. YOU WILL STILL BEAR FRUIT AND STAY FRESH IN OLD AGE**

Let’s give God a hand-clap of praise!

*Amen & Amen!*