

# First Things FIRST

Prioritizing God in Identity, Money, & Mission

DR. BRIAN BENNETT | LEAD PASTOR



SERMON NOTES  
**PATHWAYVB.COM/FYI**

**PATHWAY'S VISION:**  
**"BE THE CHURCH: RESTORING,  
RAISING UP, AND REACHING OUT"**

pathwayvb.com/faith

# Step OUT IN FAITH

90-DAY GIVING CHALLENGE



## First-Time Giver

- I accept the challenge to give for the first time.
- I accept the challenge to give for the first time and set up recurring giving.

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### Regular Giver

- I accept the challenge and would like to become a regular tither.
- I am a regular tither and accept the challenge to set up recurring giving.

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### **Regular Giver**

- I accept the challenge and would like to become a regular tither.
- I am a regular tither and accept the challenge to set up recurring giving.

### **Strategic Giving**

- I accept the challenge to give towards the year-end gift: "Heart for the Home" (above & beyond).
- Contact me/us for planned giving (estate, stocks, tax-advantaged charitable distribution).

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### Ramsey Plus - A Gift for You!

Ramsey Plus is one of the best tools for financial literacy, equipping, and management that you'll find anywhere. It includes the Financial Peace University course, Every Dollar premium budgeting software, tax software, and more. This is a free membership - a gift for you, provided by Pathway Church. A value of \$129.99. Get started today at [pathwayvb.com/ramsey](http://pathwayvb.com/ramsey)

- I accept the challenge to set up my Ramsey Plus membership.



**"5 TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND DO NOT LEAN ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. 6 IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS."**

**[PROVERBS 3:5-6 ESV]**



**"OH I'M AN OPEN BOOK...YOU KNOW, AT ONE POINT I HAD A LOT OF MONEY ON PAPER. NOT ACTUALLY [IN THE BANK], UNFORTUNATELY. I'VE LOST ALL MY MONEY.**

**I'VE HAD TO SELL ALMOST EVERYTHING  
IN MY LIFE. I'M WORKING HARD SO THAT  
I CAN TRY TO MAKE MONEY AGAIN...  
BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE MUCH LEFT, AND  
SO I'M HUNGRY AND HUMBLE."**

**[JOHN FOLEY, CO-FOUNDER PELOTON]**

**GOD'S TRUST FUND FOR OUR LIVES  
GROWS AS WE PUT HIM FIRST IN  
ALL OF LIFE.**

**[PROVERBS 3:5-12 ESV]**

**"7 BE NOT WISE IN YOUR OWN  
EYES; FEAR THE LORD, AND TURN  
AWAY FROM EVIL. 8 IT WILL BE  
HEALING TO YOUR FLESH AND  
REFRESHMENT TO YOUR BONES. 9  
HONOR THE LORD WITH YOUR**

**[PROVERBS 3:7-12 ESV]**

**WEALTH AND WITH THE FIRSTFRUITS  
OF ALL YOUR PRODUCE; 10 THEN  
YOUR BARNES WILL BE FILLED WITH  
PLENTY, AND YOUR VATS WILL BE  
BURSTING WITH WINE. 11 MY SON,**

**[PROVERBS 3:7-12 ESV]**

**DO NOT DESPISE THE LORD'S  
DISCIPLINE OR BE WEARY OF  
HIS REPROOF, 12 FOR THE LORD  
REPROVES HIM WHOM HE  
LOVES, AS A FATHER THE SON  
IN WHOM HE DELIGHTS."**

**[PROVERBS 3:7-12 ESV]**



**A GOOD TRUST FUND INCLUDES  
THE FEAR OF THE LORD, OUR FIRST  
FRUITS, HEALTHY DISCIPLINE, AND  
THE LOVE OF THE LORD.**

**[PROVERBS 3:7-12 ESV]**



**Dave Ramsey**  @DaveRamsey · 9h ...

Humility recognizes that God is 100 percent responsible for every blessing, every success, every outcome, and every reward in my life.

I only have these things because God gave them to me. Sure, I worked hard, but God provided the result.

**WHAT DOES GOD'S "TRUST FUND"  
LOOK LIKE IN ACTION?**

**GRACE-BASED GIVING THAT IS  
CONTAGIOUS AND STARTS WITH  
THE CROSS.**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9 ESV]**

**"<sup>1</sup> WE WANT YOU TO KNOW,  
BROTHERS, ABOUT THE GRACE OF  
GOD THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN AMONG  
THE CHURCHES OF MACEDONIA, <sup>2</sup>  
FOR IN A SEVERE TEST OF  
AFFLICTION, THEIR ABUNDANCE OF  
JOY AND THEIR EXTREME POVERTY**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9 ESV]**

**HAVE OVERFLOWED IN A WEALTH  
OF GENEROSITY ON THEIR PART. 3  
FOR THEY GAVE ACCORDING TO  
THEIR MEANS, AS I CAN TESTIFY,  
AND BEYOND THEIR MEANS, OF  
THEIR OWN ACCORD, 4 BEGGING US**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9 ESV]**

**EARNESTLY FOR THE FAVOR OF  
TAKING PART IN THE RELIEF OF THE  
SAINTS— 5 AND THIS, NOT AS WE  
EXPECTED, BUT THEY GAVE  
THEMSELVES FIRST TO THE LORD AND  
THEN BY THE WILL OF GOD TO US.**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9 ESV]**

**6 ACCORDINGLY, WE URGED TITUS  
THAT AS HE HAD STARTED, SO HE  
SHOULD COMPLETE AMONG YOU THIS  
ACT OF GRACE. 7 BUT AS YOU EXCEL  
IN EVERYTHING—IN FAITH, IN SPEECH,  
IN KNOWLEDGE, IN ALL**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9 ESV]**



**EARNESTNESS, AND IN OUR LOVE FOR  
YOU—SEE THAT YOU EXCEL IN THIS  
ACT OF GRACE ALSO. 8 I SAY THIS NOT  
AS A COMMAND, BUT TO PROVE BY  
THE EARNESTNESS OF OTHERS THAT  
YOUR LOVE ALSO IS GENUINE.**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9 ESV]**

**9 FOR YOU KNOW THE GRACE OF OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT THOUGH HE  
WAS RICH, YET FOR YOUR SAKE HE  
BECAME POOR, SO THAT YOU BY HIS  
POVERTY MIGHT BECOME RICH."**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9 ESV]**

**A CHRIST-CENTERED PERSPECTIVE  
THAT OWNS OUR FOCUS, FOLLOW  
THROUGH, AND ENTITLEMENT ISSUES.**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:10-15 ESV]**

**10 AND IN THIS MATTER I GIVE MY  
JUDGMENT: THIS BENEFITS YOU, WHO  
A YEAR AGO STARTED NOT ONLY TO  
DO THIS WORK BUT ALSO TO DESIRE  
TO DO IT. 11 SO NOW FINISH DOING IT  
AS WELL, SO THAT YOUR READINESS**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:10-15 ESV]**

**IN DESIRING IT MAY BE MATCHED BY  
YOUR COMPLETING IT OUT OF WHAT YOU  
HAVE. 12 FOR IF THE READINESS IS  
THERE, IT IS ACCEPTABLE ACCORDING TO  
WHAT A PERSON HAS, NOT ACCORDING  
TO WHAT HE DOES NOT HAVE.**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:10-15 ESV]**

**13 FOR I DO NOT MEAN THAT OTHERS  
SHOULD BE EASED AND YOU BURDENED,  
BUT THAT AS A MATTER OF FAIRNESS 14  
YOUR ABUNDANCE AT THE PRESENT  
TIME SHOULD SUPPLY THEIR NEED,**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:10-15 ESV]**

**SO THAT THEIR ABUNDANCE MAY SUPPLY  
YOUR NEED, THAT THERE MAY BE  
FAIRNESS. 15 AS IT IS WRITTEN,  
"WHOEVER GATHERED MUCH HAD  
NOTHING LEFT OVER, AND WHOEVER  
GATHERED LITTLE HAD NO LACK."**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:10-15 ESV]**

**A STEWARDSHIP APPROACH THAT  
ENSURES THE "CARRIER" IS  
TRUSTWORTHY OF OUR INVESTMENT**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-24 ESV]**



**16 BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO PUT  
INTO THE HEART OF TITUS THE SAME  
EARNEST CARE I HAVE FOR YOU. 17 FOR  
HE NOT ONLY ACCEPTED OUR APPEAL,  
BUT BEING HIMSELF VERY EARNEST HE  
IS GOING TO YOU OF HIS OWN ACCORD.**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-17 ESV]**

EVANGELICAL COUNCIL FOR  
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY



# PATHWAY COMMITTEES

**PATHWAY CHURCH** CHURCH COMMITTEES 2024

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of directors serves according to the Biblical standards for elders and provide both shepherding and stewardship for the pastoral team and congregation. They provide spiritual oversight, governance, and strategic direction with the church's vision, leadership, policies, and finances.

**DAVID MADDIX | BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
David was born in Mobile, Alabama. He has been a member of Pathway Church since 1976 when he and his wife moved to Vero Beach. They have five children and five grandchildren who they love very much. David has been a member of the Pathway community since 1976.

**ERIC SMITH | BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIRMAN**  
Eric has attended Pathway Church for over 20 years. He is married to Katie and they have two teenage daughters. At Pathway Eric has served in various ministries, including LifeGroups and served on our church Health Team. Professionally, he owned and operated a healthcare company for over 30 years. Eric also plays a role in their family business, Vero Fitness, which God has used to reach countless lives.

**DAVE BROWN | BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Dave is a dedicated member of our Board of Directors, Personnel Committee, and Stewardship Committee. He is married to Janet and together they have one daughter and four grandchildren. With a 50-year career in education as a teacher, coach, and athletic director, Dave has also served home churches in Southern California, Oregon, and now Vero Beach. He considers it an honor and privilege to serve Jesus and be a part of the amazing work God is doing at Pathway.

**DR. BRIAN BENNETT | BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Pastor Brian has been pastoring since 2003 and joined Pathway as our lead pastor in 2020. He is married to Cindy and together they are blessed with four children from pre-teens to young adults. He holds a doctorate degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and is ordained in the Church of God (Anderson, IN). Professionally he has served since 2002 as a teacher, coach, youth pastor, church planter, and non-profit founder/executive director. He is honored to be a part of what God is doing at Pathway and is passionate about "loving God and loving all people in our Pathway" here in Vero and beyond!

**BOB FLAMING | BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Bob has been a dedicated member of the Board of Directors for over three years and a teacher at Master's Academy for over 11 years. Initially the Athletic Director, he now excels as a Bible Teacher and oversees custodial and maintenance projects. Active in Pathway's Kid's Ministry and as the Master's Academy boys' soccer coach, Bob is committed to fostering the spiritual and physical development of his students.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**  
The Personnel Committee at Pathway supports the development of our staff. They ensure fair employment practices and well-being. Additionally, they collaborate with the church's vision.

**PASTOR DAN DELANEY**  
Dan brings over 30 years of experience in ministry. He has served in various capacities within the church and is currently serving as the lead pastor. He is married to his wife, and they have three children. Dan is passionate about serving the church and the community.

**ERIC SMITH | PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**  
Eric has attended Pathway Church for over 20 years. He is married to Katie and they have two teenage daughters. At Pathway Eric has served in various ministries, including LifeGroups and served on our church Health Team. Professionally, he owned and operated a healthcare company for over 30 years. Eric also plays a role in their family business, Vero Fitness, which God has used to reach countless lives.

**BROWN | PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**  
A dedicated member of our Board of Directors, Personnel Committee, and Stewardship Committee. He is married to Janet and together they have one daughter and four grandchildren. With a 50-year career in education as a teacher, coach, and athletic director, Dave has also served home churches in Southern California, Oregon, and now Vero Beach. He considers it an honor and privilege to serve Jesus and be a part of the amazing work God is doing at Pathway.

**RICHMOND | PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**  
Richmond is a dedicated member with experience in Human Resources, Payroll, and IT. She works as the Assistant Controller for Dyer Auto Group. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and playing tennis.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**  
An organizational systems, structure and policy. He is now retired and works as the Executive Pastor in a multi-campus church and a CEO of an international company. He and his wife, Janet, enjoy spending time with their kids and cooking together.

CONTINUE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS PAGE 01

CONTINUE TO PERSONNEL COMMITTEE PAGE 03

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**6 THE POINT IS THIS: WHOEVER SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY, AND WHOEVER SOWS BOUNTIFULLY WILL ALSO REAP BOUNTIFULLY. 7 EACH ONE MUST GIVE AS HE HAS DECIDED IN HIS HEART,**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11 ESV]**

**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,**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11 ESV]**

**YOU MAY ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD  
WORK. 9 AS IT IS WRITTEN, "HE HAS  
DISTRIBUTED FREELY, HE HAS GIVEN TO  
THE POOR; HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS  
ENDURES FOREVER." 10 HE WHO  
SUPPLIES SEED TO THE SOWER**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11 ESV]**

**AND BREAD FOR FOOD WILL SUPPLY  
AND MULTIPLY YOUR SEED FOR  
SOWING AND INCREASE THE HARVEST  
OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. 11 YOU  
WILL BE ENRICHED IN EVERY WAY TO**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11 ESV]**

**BE GENEROUS IN EVERY WAY, WHICH  
THROUGH US WILL PRODUCE  
THANKSGIVING TO GOD."**

**[2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11 ESV]**



# **OVERCOMING OUR "TRUST FUND" ISSUES:**

- TRUST THAT WE SOW AND REAP ACCORDING TO SEASONS.
- TRUST THAT GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.
- TRUST THAT GOD'S GRACE WILL ALWAYS SUPPLY AND MEET NEEDS.
- TRUST GOD'S PROVISION AND LET IT PRODUCE THANKSGIVING.

[2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11 ESV]

# NEXT STEP QUESTIONS:

**1. WILL YOU STEP OUT IN FAITH AND TAKE THE 90-DAY  
GIVING CHALLENGE?**

**[PATHWAYVB.COM/FAITH](https://PATHWAYVB.COM/FAITH)**



# **NEXT STEP QUESTIONS:**

**2. WILL YOU MAKE JESUS FIRST TODAY AND GROW YOUR TRUST  
FUND WITH GOD?**

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