

# 25-0924wc - Detailed Summary

## 25-0924wc - *The Engagement Project, Tour 3, Scott Reynolds*

This detailed summary by Grok / X, (Transcription by TurboScribe.ai)

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## 25-0924-Tour 3 - Redemption - The Heart of God, Part 2

### Summary of Transcript (0:04 - 11:34) - Teacher: Scott Reynolds

#### (0:04 - 2:04) Introduction to Dr. Del Tackett and The Engagement Project

In this opening segment, the transcript introduces Dr. Del Tackett as a prominent figure in Christian worldview studies, renowned for his series *The Truth Project*. It highlights his follow-up work, *The Engagement Project*, which is a small group study consisting of 10 video tours designed to equip Christians to engage thoughtfully with the world. The project encourages participants to seek the face of God and understand His ultimate purposes. Specifically, Tour 3, titled "Redemption, the Heart of God," explores the transformative power of divine love, redemption from darkness, and the call to reflect God's heart in daily life. This article focuses on Part 2 of Tour 3, drawing from session notes to examine profound themes such as agape love, grace, and God's steadfast pursuit, known as chesed. By integrating biblical insights and cultural context, the discussion aims to reveal how these elements form the crown jewel of God's redemptive plan. The segment then transitions into the essence of agape, defining it as the Greek word for love that goes beyond mere emotion or affection, representing a sacrificial zeal that seeks the true good, shalom (peace), or well-being of another.

#### (2:05 - 7:04) The Depth of Agape Love: Biblical Examples and Connections

This section delves deeply into the concept of agape love, portraying it as other-focused, unyielding, and willing to endure discomfort for the beloved's sake, rather than being self-centered or superficial. It avoids enabling harm and demands authenticity, contrasting with insincere acts like Judas' betraying kiss in John 13:18-30. Tackett stresses that agape requires significant personal cost, with Jesus Christ as the supreme example, who laid down His life out of zeal for humanity's eternal shalom. This theme is central to Scripture, as evidenced by 1 John 4:20, which states that claiming to love God while hating one's brother makes one a liar, since loving visible brothers is essential to loving the unseen God. Without agape, one abides in death (1 John 3:14) and fails to know God (1 John 4:8). Tackett references 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, the "love chapter," describing agape as patient, kind, bearing all things, believing, hoping, and enduring; it rejoices in truth and outlasts faith and hope, while rejecting jealousy, bragging, arrogance, rudeness, selfishness, irritability, resentment, and delight in wrongdoing. He uses a gong sound to illustrate the emptiness of actions without love, echoing 1 Corinthians 13:1, where loveless deeds are like a noisy gong or clanging cymbal.

Tackett ties these ideas to three key questions from the series: Why did Jesus leave? Why does God send us? What is God's end game? The answer revolves around agape as the crown jewel of God's character, exemplified in John 3:16, where God's love for the world prompted Him to give His only Son for eternal life to believers—this is not a mere slogan but the heartbeat of redemption. Jesus' ascension in Acts 1:9-11 was not abandonment but preparation for the Holy Spirit's empowerment, sending believers as ambassadors of this love (2 Corinthians 5:20). God's end game envisions a restored creation where agape reigns, harmonizing all things. Furthermore, agape extends to enemies, defining grace as love for the undeserving, which is revolutionary in a reciprocal world. Biblical support includes Romans 5:6-8, where Christ died for the ungodly and sinners while they were powerless; Romans 5:10 notes reconciliation of enemies through His death; Colossians 1:21-22 describes former aliens and hostiles now presented holy through Christ's sacrifice; and Ephesians 2:4-6 emphasizes God's mercy making us alive in Christ despite our deadness in transgressions, saving us by grace and seating us in heavenly places.

### **(7:05 - 7:45) Showcasing God's Kindness Through Grace**

In this brief but poignant segment, the discussion continues to illustrate how God's grace, as an extension of agape, showcases His kindness for ages to come. The passages referenced paint a vivid portrait of a God who pursues humanity relentlessly, not in spite of rebellion but because of His inherent nature. This unyielding pursuit is introduced through the Hebrew concept of *chesed*, God's steadfast love, as seen in Psalm 136:1-2, which calls for thanks to the Lord for His goodness, declaring that His love endures forever.

### **(7:46 - 8:44) Chesed: God's Enduring and Covenant-Faithful Love**

Expanding on *chesed*, this section explains it as a Hebrew term from the Old Testament capturing God's unwavering commitment, translated variously as love, mercy, loving kindness, or steadfast love. Its essence is a loyal, unfailing pursuit that persists even when rejected, extended not to the lovable or deserving but steadfastly to the ungodly, sinners, and hostile. *Chesed* mirrors agape but emphasizes endurance, appearing over 240 times in the Hebrew Bible, often in contexts of covenant faithfulness, such as Exodus 34:6-7. It weaves through history, from God's deliverance of Israel despite their idolatry to its culmination at the cross in Christ. This love remains steadfast amid betrayal, continually seeking the true good of the beloved. The segment transitions into a musical interlude to further encapsulate these truths.

### **(8:44 - 9:27) Musical Reflection: The Hymn "The Love of God"**

To embody the session's themes, participants listen to the hymn "The Love of God" by Frederick M. Lehman (1917). The lyrics poetically convey the incomprehensible vastness of divine love: it is greater than tongue or pen can tell, extending beyond the highest star to the lowest hell. Inspired by a poem found on a prison wall, the song reinforces that God's love defies measurement and covers humanity's deepest failings, echoing the ideas of agape, grace, and *chesed* discussed throughout the tour.

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## **(9:28 - 11:34) Triumphant Declaration: Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love**

The session culminates with a reading of Romans 8:31-39, a powerful affirmation of God's unquenchable love. It poses rhetorical questions: If God is for us, who can be against us? Since He did not spare His own Son but gave Him for us, He will graciously give all things. No one can bring charges against God's chosen, as He justifies; Christ, who died and rose, intercedes at God's right hand. Nothing—trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword, death, life, angels, demons, present, future, powers, height, depth, or anything in creation—can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. This passage seals the message of God's redemptive heart, where agape, grace, and chesed triumph. In *The Engagement Project*, Tackett challenges believers to not only understand but embody this love, engaging the broken world as ambassadors reflecting the God who redeems enemies into heirs. Through Tour 3, Part 2, participants gain insight into the crown jewel of redemption—a costly, pursuing, enduring love—that inspires small groups worldwide to live out God's heart in their communities and beyond.