

St. Andrew's

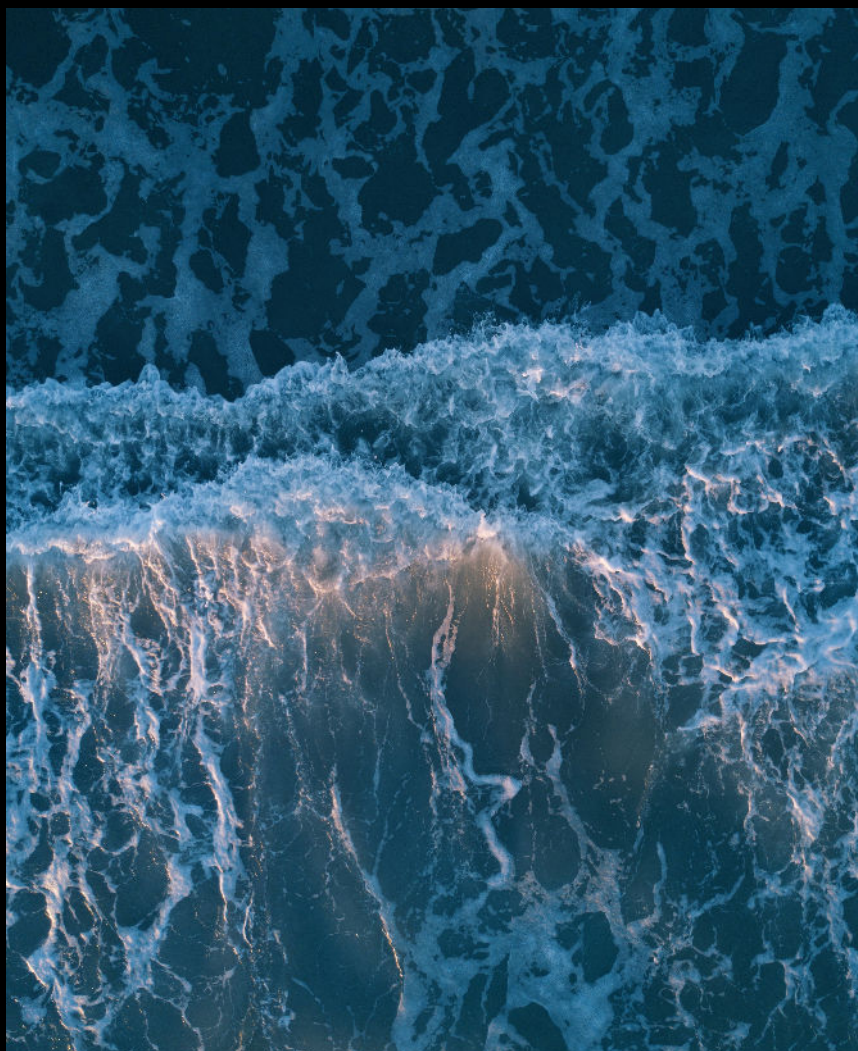
— 11-21 —

DIVINE

ADVENTURE

GARY WATKINS



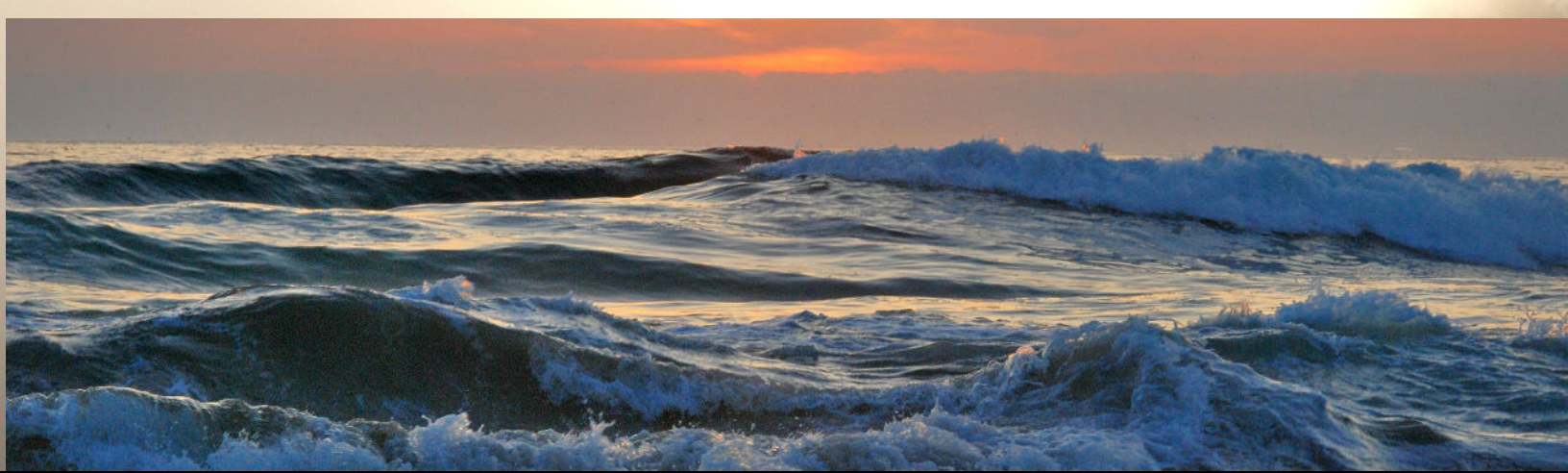


DIVINE ADVENTURE

11 / 21

Gary Watkins, our new transitional pastor is taking us through, "The Call of Abram" We have a front row seat in the opening of Chapter 12 to this interaction between God and Abram, the beginning of a covenant relationship between the Creator of the universe and his people! The beginning to a long, beautiful, painful at times journey in which God will faithfully lead.

- How are you this week?
- Take time to pray with each other and over each others week's before diving in.
- Read Genesis
 - What is your first impression?
 - How does it speak to you?
- See commentary below



The Call to Abram

And now we arrive at a point in history which will prove to be of such tremendous importance as to shape the course of the world both in this age and the age to come. But, like many of God's mustard-seed size actions, it is obscure and seemingly insignificant. It is the kind of action scarcely anyone would have thought of who wanted to redeem the world, reclaim creation from the curse of sin, and fill the earth with God's glory. God zeroes in on one man, Abram, a worshipper of false gods (Joshua 24:2, 3) in the land of Ur, and says, with unbelievably far-reaching implications, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse, and in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:1–3).

In completely sovereign grace God comes to this undeserving idolater and says, with life-creating authority, "I am going to bless you, and through you bring blessing to the whole world." And with that begins the history of the people of Israel.



DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP

- When you read this passage and have the words "Divine Adventure" in the forefront of your mind, what is highlighted for you?
 - How do you think Abram would have felt?
 - Have you experienced something similar?
- Who then are the heirs of the precious and very great promises made to Abraham and to his seed?
 - How might this impact us today?
- In what ways does this open up a "divine adventure" for you?



AN ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THIS PASSAGE

You are. To whom can it be said: Your sins are forgiven; God is for you; with all his power, goodness, and mercy he will pursue you all your life, and you will rise from the dead; your name will be great; your assembly as the stars of the heavens; you will possess the gates of your enemies, and the land of Israel and all the earth will be your inheritance; and you will fill the new world with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord? To whom can all this be said? To you, the children of Abraham through faith in Christ. "For all things are yours . . . whether the world or life or death or the present or the future, all (the promises!) are yours, for you are Christ's and Christ (the seed of Abraham) is God's" (1 Corinthians 3:21–23). Amen.

-- John Piper