

“Christ & Culture”

“What Is the Mission of the Church in a Needy World?”

II Corinthians 5:14-21 & other texts

Opening: A tale of two civilizations...

Looking BACK over the past eight weeks...

- Ideas have c _____! Despite popular myth, there are no truly s _____ arguments.
- God created all that is, for His p _____ and to display His g _____.
- God created humans as the crown of His creation “in His _____” to teach truth about Himself and to have personal relationship with Him.
- Marriage is a covenant and sexual union between a man and a woman in life-long commitment, revealing t _____ about God Himself and about the r _____ between Christ and the Church.
- Sin is culpable “s _____-breaking.” All sin questions God’s g _____ and supplants His a _____ with our own. All of creation is affected by sin. Our only hope is something outside of creation.
- According to the Bible, something is RIGHT when it is in h _____ with what God is like, and it is WRONG when it is *not* in h _____ with what God is like.
- Our primary citizenship is in the “City of _____” but we still live in the “City of _____” (Augustine, 413).
- Living in the “City of _____,” we must speak God’s unchanging truth w _____ and b _____, AND still be g _____ with those who do not know Christ.
- In a diverse world, love calls us to demonstrate our faith in Christ by acts of true c _____.

So what is our Mission?

Matthew 9:35-38

- A. The mission of the church is to reflect the c _____ of Christ for a needy world.
- What do you think that Jesus, the Creator of a perfect world, thought and felt as He moved among people afflicted with sickness and disease?
 - True compassion, concern for justice, and meeting of practical needs are a l _____ and e _____ outflow of the gospel to a needy world.

II Corinthians 5:14-21

- B. The mission of the church is to s _____ *compellingly* the words of the gospel to a lost world.
- Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, “*Preach the gospel at all times; if necessary, used words.*” While affirming much of that statement, we must remember words ARE necessary. Using this text, can YOU clearly explain the gospel?
 - What “urgent” words to you see in this text? _____

THINK and ACT!

- What secondary issues tend to grab your attention and capture your emotion?
- What does Richard Stearns mean by the “hole” in our gospel?