

Sermon Notes – September 15, 2019

Three Priorities for Church Life in an Antagonistic Age

- ⇒ We live in an antagonistic age – that is, antagonistic to God, to God’s Word, and to a faith-driven life. Two weeks ago we looked at the power of God’s Word to give life and bring conviction. We said, “God’s Life-Giving Word Must Define Us.”
- ⇒ Last week we looked at Priority #2: “God’s Glorious & Messy Church Must Shape Us.” We remembered together that God sees His Church as glorious, and that one day the Church, as the bride of Christ, will be presented to Him complete, made fully whole. Even today, in this “messy” stage, God uses His Church to shape us. Every Christian should be vitally connected to a local church!

Today’s Texts: Hebrews 6:13-20; I Corinthians 1 & 15

Churches identify themselves – and market themselves – on all kinds of things: amazing buildings, catchy slogans, & cool programs. These are not necessarily bad in themselves, but as we have seen, God’s Life-Giving Word Must Define Us, God’s Glorious & Messy Church Must Shape Us, and as we’ll see today, The Gospel Message & The Gospel Method Must Anchor us.

For The Church, the Christ of the Gospel is our Anchor

Hebrews 6:13-20

- ⇒ Let’s look at the text: Along with the entire book of Hebrews, this is a serious text for people in troubled times. After a severe warning, the writer turns the corner to assurance & confidence (9), and then moves toward _____.
 - We often _____ others based on nice sentiments & wishful thinking.
 - The writer of Hebrew rivets his encouragement entirely on the _____ & _____ of God. Remember Abraham? God does.
- ⇒ Let’s talk about anchors: If you’re a sailor, an anchor is an important tool, and the process of anchoring is a science.
 - There are four references in the NT to anchors...

- In the art of anchoring, having the _____ anchor and chain, and the right seabed is critical. “_____” means everything in a storm or in a tight spot. Do you see Paul’s point in this text?

⇒ What songs do you know that reflect this imagery?

What Do You Give Struggling, Hurting, & Sinful People?

I Corinthians 1 and 15

- ⇒ Answer: You give them the gospel! You give them Christ! You don’t just dish out lectures, lollipops, or dollar bills.
- ⇒ Do you see how Paul counsels and corrects the struggling church at Corinth? He begins with the gospel, he corrects _____ with the gospel and he concludes with gospel _____. The entire book is filled with “Gospel Air” – not anger or shame or finger-in-your-face lectures or comparisons or guilt or any of our other favorite methods of “helping people change.”

Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ Let’s return to the analogy of anchors: In this world adrift, the Church of Jesus Christ offers the strongest possible anchor – Christ Himself, the true and solid “anchor of the soul.” The Hebrew Christians got it!
- ⇒ For a local church, the gospel & the gospel method – that is, Gospel Air – must anchor our lives and our collective ministry. That is, all that we do must be flavored by the gospel.
- ⇒ For Paul, the gospel message profoundly influenced his methods. That’s the point of I Corinthians 2:1-5 and II Corinthians 4:2.

Next Sunday: September 22, 2019

“The Gospel is *God’s* Gospel”

Galatians 1:1-10

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: ▪ strong encouragement ▪ encourage ▪ person ▪ promise ▪ right ▪ Holding power ▪ problems ▪ hope