

WELCOME GUESTS!

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or ask to talk to one of our shepherds. Our desire is to give you a biblical answer about the things that we believe and practice.

THIS WEEK'S READING:

- 12/04 – Heb 9-10; Psalm 29
- 12/05 – Heb 11-13; Psalm 30
- 12/06 – James 1-3; Psalm 31
- 12/07 – James 4-5; Psalm 32
- 12/08 – 1 Peter 1-2; Psalm 33
- 12/09 – 1 Peter 3-5; Psalm 34
- 12/10 – 2 Peter; Psalm 35

ASSEMBLY TIMES:

SUNDAY

Sermon 9:00 am
Bible Classes 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

JESUS DOESN'T JUDGE A CHURCH BY IT'S SIZE, PT2

BY WES MCADAMS

Our article last week spoke of how we can be guilty of doing something that Jesus does not do: judging a congregation by its size. Whether a congregation is small or large, it can be faithful and healthy or it can be unfaithful and dead. The size of the group, in and of itself, does not make a group of Christians sound.

With these things established, it is important for us to ask, "How does Jesus judge a group of Christians? How can we know whether or not a church family is faithful and healthy?"

How Jesus Judges a Congregation

When we learn to see the church the way Jesus sees the church, we will stop judging congregations based on size. We will start to understand that Jesus' criteria for being a successful congregation is far less quantifiable than average Sunday morning attendance. Jesus judges a church based on whether or not they are "in step with the truth of the gospel" (Galatians 2:14). So here are some of the ways you can tell if a church is in step with the truth of the gospel:

- They are devoted to "the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42).
- They don't just talk about love; they love people in tangible ways. They sacrifice themselves and their belongings for one another (1 John 3:16-18).
- They "continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name" (Hebrews 13:15).
- They understand their salvation is a matter of God's grace and not their own doing, so there is absolutely no boasting (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- They walk in the good works God prepared for them to do (Ephesians 2:10).
- They "purge" evil people from their fellowship (1 Corinthians 5:13).
- They are full of humility, gentleness, and patience. They bear with one another in love and are eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:2-3).
- Their minds are "on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:2).
- They "walk by faith, not by sight" and make it their aim to please the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:7-9).
- They are "zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14).

These are just a few examples of things the New Testament actually emphasizes. Numbers are not one of them. Small churches can be pleasing to the Lord and large churches can be pleasing to the Lord. Jesus doesn't judge a church by its size...neither should we. Are we looking at the kind of things the Lord does when we ask the question, "Are we a sound church?"



TODAY'S INTERACTIVE OUTLINE

Hearts on Fire

Fueling Our Zeal With Courage

December 03, 2017

Our Definition of Zeal:

Zeal is “having a burning desire to please God which leads us to action - to love and serve others with _____, diligence, and wisdom.”

Today we are going to talk about how we can display more courage for the Lord. Too often we can allow the fears that we face and the things people do to discourage us to keep us from doing what is right. When we allow this to happen, our zeal can diminish and our “fire” can burn out. There are three things that we need to keep in mind if we are going to be courageous for the Lord and if we are going to grow in our zeal:

I. Remember Where _____ Comes From

- A. See 2 Timothy 1:6-7
- B. Fear does not come from God. He is not the source.
- C. If we have fear within us, our fire needs to be “stirred up” or “kindled afresh.” We need to use the gifts God has given us to serve.

II. Remember _____ of Courage and Trust.

- A. Paul's example of faith (2 Timothy 1:11-13)
 1. Paul was appointed to do a mission by Jesus, so he resolved to trust in the Lord and to be faithful no matter what the consequences may be physically.
 2. He trusted that the Lord would take care of him.
- B. Paul's example: Jesus
- C. Consider on your own some other examples in 2 Timothy 1:15-18:
 1. Phygelus and Hermogenes
 2. Onesiphorus

III. Remember _____ with us!

- A. 2 Timothy 1:14 - The Holy Spirit lives/dwells in us.
 1. Fear and discouragement can lead us to _____ that God is with us.
- B. Joshua & Israel (Joshua 1:5, 9)
- C. Christians (Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 13:5)
 1. Who is able to harm those who are zealous for doing good (1 Peter 3:13)

THINKING THROUGH TODAY'S LESSON:

- Are you living courageously for the Lord?
- Are there things that you are allowing to cause you to fear?
 - A desire to please men and to have them like us?
 - A love for the things of the world that we don't want to lose: our lives, our possessions?
 - A lack of trust in God's promises?
- Are you allowing fears and discouragement to lead you to be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

MY NOTES: